

THE AAPI & AMEMSA STATE REDISTRICTING COLLABORATIVE PROPOSED BAY AREA CONGRESSIONAL PLAN

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I. INTRODUCTION TO THE AAPI & AMEMSA STATE REDISTRICTING COLLABORATIVE

Background

The AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative (AASRC) is a nonpartisan coalition working to uplift the voices of the Asian American, Pacific Islander, Arab, Middle Eastern, and Muslim communities in California's 2021 redistricting process. AASRC's approach has two main components. The first is to support community participation in redistricting by educating community members and leaders about redistricting, demystifying the process for them, and helping them provide communities of interest input to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. The second is to use the priorities and feedback identified by local residents and leaders to create assembly and congressional district map proposals that respect the integrity of and empower AAPI & AMEMSA communities.

AASRC is based on the prior work of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting, which carried out outreach and advocacy efforts with AAPI communities during the previous three redistricting cycles. Given the often overlapping interests between AAPI and AMEMSA communities, AASRC broadened its network to include AMEMSA organizations in this redistricting cycle.

Principles

- I. District boundaries should comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minority populations have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice.
- II. Districts should respect the integrity of communities of interest and neighborhoods.
- III. Proposals should be created in collaboration with other stakeholders, such as Black, Latino, LGBTQ, and environmental communities, to find district line configurations that respect the integrity of other historically disenfranchised communities while also uplifting AAPI and AMEMSA communities.

Structure and Participants

AASRC worked across six regions, with anchor partners based in each region driving the work forward among their communities by engaging local community groups and individuals. See the list of regions and anchor partners below.

- Sacramento - Hmong Innovating Politics, Jakara Movement, Council on American-Islamic Relations - Sacramento Valley/Central California
- San Francisco Bay Area - Asian Law Alliance, Council on American-Islamic Relations - SF Bay Area, Jakara Movement, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
- Central Valley - Hmong Innovating Politics, Jakara Movement, Council on American-Islamic Relations - Sacramento Valley/Central California
- Orange County - Orange County Civic Engagement Table (OCCET)
- San Diego - Asian Solidarity Collective

- Los Angeles - Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
- Statewide - AAPIs for Civic Empowerment - Education Fund (AAPI FORCE-EF), Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

Process and Activities

AASRC held a total of 34 online workshops to educate local residents and leaders on redistricting concepts, explain California's process, highlight opportunities for engagement, and help people submit community of interest testimony. During these workshops, AASRC also identified community mapping priorities and shared mapping proposals for feedback. Our workshops were attended by local residents and community leaders, including members or staff of more than 100 different local community organizations such as community centers, worker centers, youth groups, cultural centers, and business associations. In many regions, AASRC held additional follow-up conversations with partners and/or additional local stakeholders to clarify how to balance competing priorities or to gather additional information about key communities of interest.

After the final set of workshops, AASRC brought its COIs, community priorities, and proposed assembly and congressional district lines to mapping discussions with leaders working to similarly engage other communities of color and underrepresented communities in California's redistricting process, including MALDEF, the Black Census and Redistricting Hub, and the IVE Redistricting Alliance. AASRC used input from these stakeholders to create a statewide mapping proposal that incorporates other communities' priorities while respecting the integrity of AAPI and AMEMSA communities.

AASRC also offered individual support to workshop participants testifying at the regional commission COI input hearings. This support included creating maps and pulling demographic information to provide additional context for their testimony.

About AASRC's Anchor Partners:

AAPIs For Civic Empowerment-Education Fund (AAPI FORCE-EF) is an alliance of community organizations serving Asian American and Pacific Islanders across the state of California. AAPI FORCE-EF builds organizers, organizations, and networks to form a far-reaching, powerful AAPI political bloc.

Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander American (AAPI) Community in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged sectors of the population.

Asian Law Alliance, established in 1977, is a non-profit organization providing equal access to the justice system for Asian Pacific Islander and low-income populations in the Silicon Valley.

Our mission is through providing legal counseling, community education and community organizing, we promote self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and a better quality of life for all.

Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC) is a grassroots organization in San Diego whose mission is to activate Asian American social justice consciousness, condemn anti-Blackness, and build Asian solidarity intersectionally with Black, Brown and Indigenous folks, people with disabilities, queer and trans people of color, and all oppressed communities. Our work includes political education, community building, and collective action.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. CAIR is America's largest Islamic civil liberties group, with regional offices nationwide. The national headquarters is located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The California offices are located in San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego, and Greater Los Angeles. In the Sacramento and Central Valleys, CAIR's presence has been essential in ensuring that vulnerable immigrant, refugee and minority communities – Sacramento being home to some of the most diverse and dense in the nation – are equitably represented and served. Through providing civil rights and immigrant rights legal services, as well as the widespread community education and advocacy efforts, CAIR – Sacramento Valley / Central California is able to give a voice to the over 100,000 Muslims in the valley.

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC) was established in 2009 by a group of young Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (NHPI) leaders who recognized the urgency to address the growing needs of NHPI families. With experiences ranging from grassroots organizing to higher education administration, the founders prioritized building a strong and unified advocacy voice for Pacific Islanders. EPIC advances social justice by engaging Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders in culture-centered advocacy, leadership development, and research.

Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP) is a grassroots organization whose mission is to advance social justice and build power with Hmong youth and families through leadership development and multi-generational community organizing. HIP is based in Fresno and Sacramento, CA — home to two of the largest Hmong American populations in the state and nation. HIP continues to serve as the largest Southeast Asian American power building organization in the Central Valley.

Jakara Movement is a grassroots community-building organization working to empower, educate, and organize Punjabi Sikhs, and other marginalized communities in California. We strive to create a Gurmat-inspired community, rooted in the struggle of our foremothers and forefathers, to develop powerful, informed, and organized youth leadership, locally-rooted residential power, and community capacity that will be a key partner in building a better future for all. The Jakara Movement has offices and staff in Bakersfield, Fresno, Livingston, Turlock/Ceres, Tracy, Union City, Sacramento, and Yuba City, as well as have collegiate chapters on 25 UC, CSU, and community colleges to complement their 70+ clubs on high school campuses in 12 California counties.

The Orange County Civic Engagement Table (OCCET) is a progressive AAPI-Latinx-Labor-Environmental Justice Alliance that seeks to build progressive transformation of our region. The eight organizations that anchor OCCET serve the emerging majority of the county – low income immigrant Latinx and Asian American communities that work across issues of immigrant, economic, and racial justice across the county. Through this innovative partnership, OCCET is committed to increasing the quality, scale and effectiveness of civic participation in communities of color and among low-income populations in Orange County.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Background and Role:

A joint team from Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus (Advancing Justice - ALC) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles (Advancing Justice - LA) facilitated the AASRC network. This role includes providing workshop facilitation, educational resources, and mapping support.

Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus - Founded in 1972, Advancing Justice - ALC is a nonprofit, public interest organization that promotes, advances, and represents the legal and civil rights of Asian Pacific American communities. Advancing Justice - ALC strives to create informed and educated communities empowered to assert their rights and participate actively in American society, through the provision of legal services, educational programs, community organizing, and advocacy. Advancing Justice - ALC also helps set local and state policies on voting rights, language access, and census taking.

Advancing Justice - Los Angeles - Since 1983, Advancing Justice - LA has been a leading legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). Today, Advancing Justice - LA serves more than 15,000 individuals and organizations in California every year. The mission of Advancing Justice - LA is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact AAPIs and to create a more equitable and harmonious society. Pursuing that mission includes advocating on behalf of AAPIs and other underrepresented people for full and fair representation in all levels of the political process.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Affiliation (Advancing Justice) is a national affiliation of five civil rights nonprofit organizations. Though independently led, operated and funded--we share a common mission to promote a fair and equitable society for all by working for civil and human rights that empower Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other underserved communities.

II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE AAPI & AMEMSA STATE REDISTRICTING COLLABORATIVE (AASRC) BAY AREA CONGRESSIONAL PLAN

Highlights of the AASRC Bay Area Congressional Plan

AASRC's Bay Area Congressional Plan includes 10 districts and includes districts in the San Francisco Peninsula, East Bay, and South Bay areas.

The general themes of AASRC's Congressional plan are that the plan (1) respects the Voting Rights Act interests of AAPI, Black, and Latino communities, (2) respects communities of interest and neighborhoods, and (3) respects other traditional redistricting criteria such as contiguity and respect for cities and counties.

AASRC's plan was drawn from the Commission's perspective, always keeping in mind the question of how proposed district lines are justified under and comport with the Voters First Act's ranked criteria.

Respect for the Voting Rights Act

AASRC's Bay Area plan does not include any Section 2 districts.

Respect for communities of interest

AASRC has engaged stakeholders from the AAPI and AMEMSA communities throughout the Bay Area to understand how local residents and community leaders define their communities. After developing an understanding of their COIs and district preferences, AASRC worked with the Black Census & Redistricting Hub, MALDEF, and the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) to understand the priorities of other communities and collaborate on mapping proposals. The Bay Area proposal submitted by AASRC has similarities with those submitted by the Black Hub and MALDEF, is intended to amplify the interests of various communities, and generally balances immigrant, communities of color, and low-income community interests.

Respect for population equality

Districts in AASRC's plan are drawn within +/- 4 residents from the ideal population of 760,066 persons per Congressional district.

Respects the requirement of contiguity

All districts in AASRC's plan are contiguous under the Commission's definition of contiguity except for one district that includes islands to which no means of transportation by land exist.

Respects cities and counties

Districts drawn to keep together communities of interest are also drawn to avoid city and county splits to the extent possible. However, where strong communities of interest cross city or county

boundaries or where population equality is required, cities and counties have been split. AASRC's Congressional plan for the Bay Area splits 27 cities or census designated places. Many of these splits only affect a small portion of each city, around 1-4%.

AASRC Priorities for Bay Area Congressional Districts¹

Priorities in San Francisco and San Mateo:

- Keep SF Chinatown and SF Japantown whole and in one district.
 - As described in our Assembly plan narrative summary and supporting testimonies, San Francisco's Chinatown and Japantown are important cultural centers and are home to low-income immigrants and seniors. Residents of Chinatown and Japantown have shared interests around affordable housing and concerns about gentrification and displacement. (Supporting Testimony: Chris Chin, June Lim, Tiffany Ng, Steven Nakajo.)
- Keep Excelsior, Portola, Visitacion Valley, and the Bayview whole and in one district.
 - As described in our Assembly plan narrative summary, many residents in Excelsior, Portola, Visitacion Valley, and the Bayview face challenges with housing affordability, tenant protections, food security, and access to healthcare services. These are working class neighborhoods in which residents face similar economic challenges. Excelsior is home to many low-income and limited-English-proficient Chinese Americans. Portola, Visitacion Valley, and the Bayview are also home to recent Asian immigrants with limited English proficiency as well as concentrations of Pacific Islander communities that have shared cultural interests. (Supporting testimony: Chris Chin, Tiffany Ng, 'Alisi Tulua, June Lim. Also based on input from calls with local nonprofit staff.)
- Keep Daly City, Westborough, and Penn (Buri Buri) whole and together.
 - As described in our Assembly plan narrative summary, Daly City and the nearby neighborhoods of Westborough and Penn (Buri Buri) make up a Filipino American community of interest and should be kept whole and together. Nearly 1 in 3 residents of Daly City are Filipino and there are significant Filipino residential concentrations and community spaces in Westborough and Buri Buri as well. Many Filipinos in these areas are immigrants, essential workers, and healthcare workers. Buri Buri is also home to Samoan communities with shared interests and multiple Samoan churches. (Supporting testimony: Rob Chua, 'Alisi Tulua.)
- Keep Pacific Islander neighborhoods in San Mateo County whole and together.
 - There are significant clusters of Pacific Islander communities in San Mateo County and their neighborhoods should be kept whole and together. As a community that has been historically underrepresented, Pacific Islanders face many systemic disparities in the areas of education, healthcare, employment, and housing. The Pacific Islander community lives in and around Redwood City including Redwood Village, Palm Park and Roosevelt, the area west of El Camino Real near Mt. Carmel, as well as the Belle Haven triangle in Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks. The Pacific Islander community in northern San Mateo

¹ Supporting testimony can be found attached at Attachment [INSERT]

County should also be kept whole and together, and is centered in: Lomita Park and the area north and west of Capuchino High School, the residential areas between El Camino Real and the 101 near San Francisco International Airport, and Bayshore Heights. (Supporting Testimony: 'Alisi Tulua.)

Priorities in the East Bay:

- Keep Oakland Chinatown, Eastlake / Little Saigon, and San Antonio neighborhoods whole and together.
 - As described in our Assembly plan narrative summary, residents of Oakland Chinatown, the Eastlake / Little Saigon neighborhood, and residential areas southeast of Lake Merritt including San Antonio have many shared interests and should be kept together in one district. These neighborhoods are home to immigrants and refugees, people with limited English proficiency, and low-income seniors and families who have shared interests in affordability, language access, and social services. (Supporting testimony: Rhummanee Hang, Yeri Shon.)
- Keep Oakland's Koreatown Northgate (KONO) district whole and with Temescal.
 - As described in our Assembly plan narrative summary, Oakland's KONO district and commercial area running up into Temescal are home to many Korean restaurants and businesses as well as Yemeni and Ethiopian markets and a mosque. Immigrants and small-business owners in these areas share common interests. (Supporting testimony: Aliza Kazmi, Yeri Shon.)
- Keep Union City whole and with Hayward.
 - Union City has a large Filipino community and should be kept with Hayward, as they both have numerous Filipino and South Asian immigrants with shared interests around immigration, employment, and education. (Supporting testimony: Daisy Maixon. Also based on calls with local nonprofit staff and input from community workshops.)
- Keep Fremont mostly whole, with the neighborhoods of Centerville, Irvington, Mission San Jose, and Warm Springs together.
 - As detailed in our Assembly plan narrative summary, Fremont has significant Asian and Muslim communities with strong cultural connections and shared interests. The Centerville area of Fremont is home to many Afghan Americans, with a commercial area with Afghani businesses and social services. Irvington is home to many South Asians and Muslims and contains mosques and Muslim-owned businesses. Punjabi-Sikh residents of Fremont also live in the neighborhoods of Mowry Avenue, Niles, and Mission San Jose. Warm Springs and Mission San Jose both have many Chinese and South Asian residents. Many residents of Fremont are immigrants, with shared interests around immigration, access to language services, and access to culturally-specific social services. Fremont also contains many families, with strong interests in education quality and maintaining community spaces such as parks. Because of shared cultural ties across Fremont neighborhoods, as well as shared policy interests, Fremont residents ask to be kept together for Congressional representation.

(Supporting testimony: Aliza Kazmi, Gabriela Garzón Gupta, June Lim, also based on input from community workshops.)

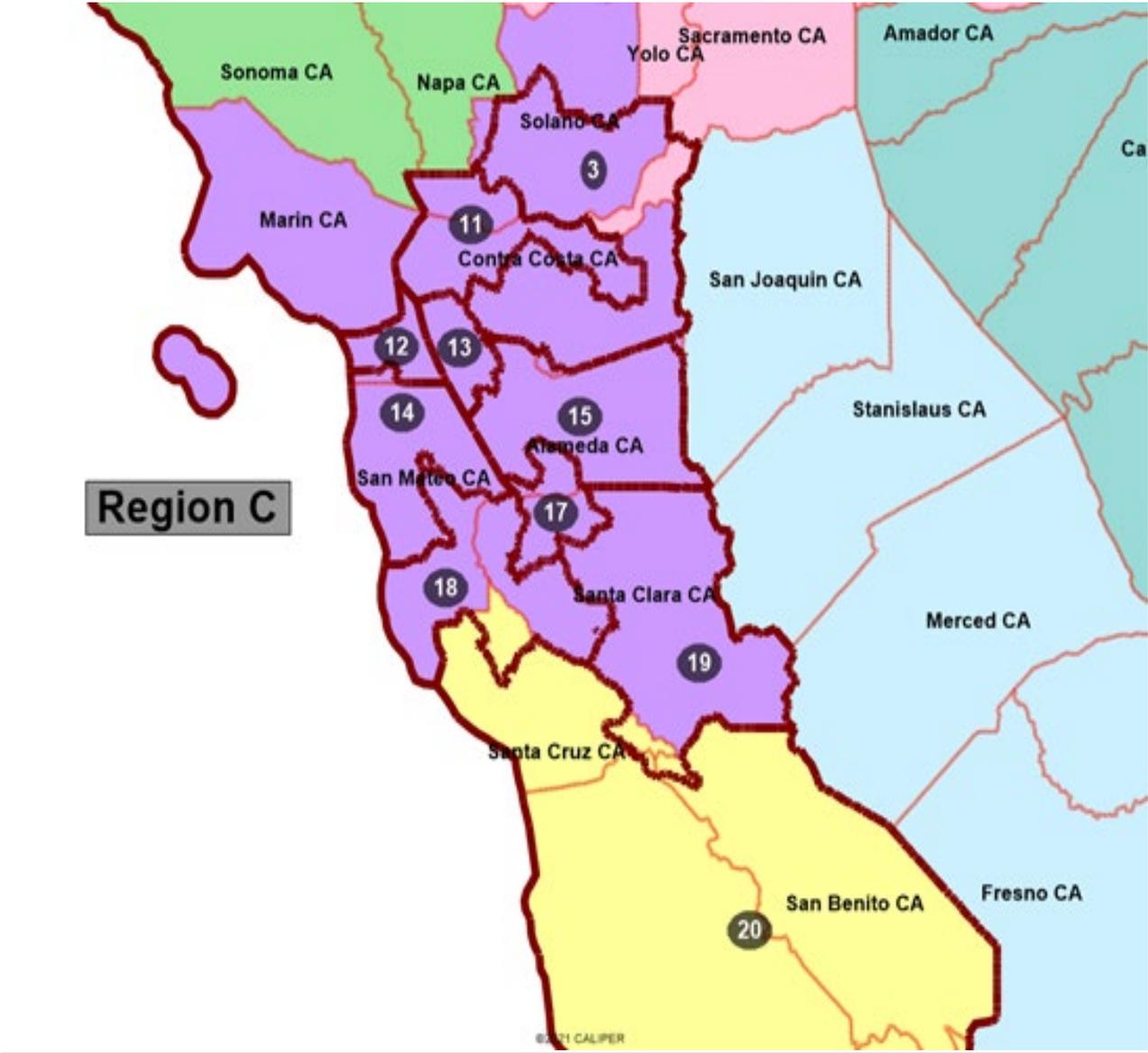
- Include Central and South Fremont in a district with Milpitas, Berryessa, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino.
 - Asian and Muslim residents of Fremont, many of whom are immigrants and families, share concerns about language services, education, and economic opportunity with other Asian American communities in Milpitas, Berryessa, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino. Many also work in tech-related jobs. They would benefit from being kept in a district together. (Supporting testimony: Gabriela Garzón Gupta. Also based on input from community workshops.)

Priorities in the South Bay Area:

- Keep Berryessa whole and with Central and South Fremont, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino.
 - Berryessa is home to many Asian American communities and should be kept whole. There are large concentrations of Chinese, Punjabi-Sikh, Filipino, and Vietnamese residents in Berryessa, many of whom work in tech-related jobs, are immigrants, and have shared cultural, language, and religious interests. (Supporting testimony: Richard Konda, Gabriela Garzón Gupta, Angelica Cortez, Jugraj Shoker, June Lim.)
 - As detailed in our Assembly plan narrative summary, many Asian ethnic and religious groups and Muslims have multiple interconnected community concentrations in Fremont, Berryessa, Milpitas, and Santa Clara, and would benefit from being kept together in a district. There are also a significant number of South Asian, East Asian, Sikh, and Muslim communities in Sunnyvale and Cupertino, with strong connections to Santa Clara due to shared cultural and religious spaces as well as working in the tech industry. For example, many Punjabi Sikhs from Sunnyvale and Cupertino attend the Silicon Valley Gurdwara located in Santa Clara, while young Muslim families and professionals from Sunnyvale go to the Muslim Community Association in Santa Clara. There is also a Korean business district along El Camino Real which serves nearby residential communities in both Santa Clara and Sunnyvale. In addition to ethnic and cultural connections between these cities, there are also significant economic connections between Fremont, North San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino. Many Fremont residents who work in the tech industry drive into Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino for work and have shared economic and transportation-related interests. (Supporting testimony: Richard Konda, Aliza Kazmi, Gabriela Garzón Gupta, Jugraj Shoker, June Lim. Also based on input from calls with local nonprofit staff and from community workshops.)
- Keep East Side San Jose whole, including Alum Rock, Evergreen, Silver Creek, and Little Saigon.
 - As described in our Assembly plan narrative summary, there are sizable Filipino, Punjabi, and Vietnamese communities in East Side San Jose, especially in Alum Rock and Evergreen. Alum Rock and East Side San Jose communities have

shared interests around education, affordability, and protections for essential and blue-collar workers. These communities tend to have lower incomes than communities in Berryessa and other parts of North San Jose. Alum Rock should be kept with Little Saigon and its surrounding residential areas, where there are many lower-income residents and Vietnamese immigrants. (Supporting testimony: Angelica Cortez, Jugraj Shoker, June Lim. Also based on oral testimony provided by Tam Nguyen of VIVO and input from calls with local nonprofit staff.).

VIEW OF REGIONAL MAP



AASRC Bay Area Congressional Plan – Population Equality

All districts are +/- 4 residents of the ideal population size for Congressional districts. Congressional District 19 is the least populated district, with 2 people less than ideal population (total population) and Congressional District 17 is the largest district, with 4 people more than ideal population (total population).

AASRC Bay Area Congressional Plan – Compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act

This plan contains 0 Voting Rights Act Districts as we were unable to draw any district with 50% of a protected class.

AASRC Bay Area Congressional Plan – Contiguity

All districts in AASRC's plan are contiguous under the Commission's definition of contiguity except for one district that includes islands to which no means of transportation by land exist.

AASRC Bay Area Congressional Plan – Cities, Counties, Communities of Interest and Neighborhoods

Cities are defined to include both incorporated cities and unincorporated areas (census designated places). This proposal splits 27 out of 206 census places, only 13% of all census places in the Bay Area. Most census places were split in 2, however two cities were split multiple times, due to the size of many cities. Census places include cities and census designated places. The district-specific descriptions contained in Appendix A identifies each city or census designated place (unincorporated areas) that are whole or split in each proposed district.

None of the 11 counties in the Bay Area region are kept whole in this plan because more than half of them have populations that are larger than the ideal population of 760,066 persons per Congressional district.

As described in the AASRC Priorities section above, the proposal keeps together numerous communities of interest and neighborhoods. See Appendix B for detailed community of interest testimony from AASRC participants.