

October 21, 2021

City of San Diego Redistricting Commission
202 C Street, MS2A
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: AAPI Representation in District 6

Dear Chair Thomas Hebrank and Redistricting Commissioners:

On behalf of the undersigned who represent many Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) voices residing in the City of San Diego, we request that the Redistricting Commission consider expanding AAPI representation in District 6.

To that end, we request that an AAPI empowerment district is redrawn in District 6 to include Kearny Mesa, Mira Mesa, Miramar, west through Carmel Valley and all of UTC and the UC San Diego campus.

San Diego has grown into a diverse, world class city over the last ten years and while we have seen many positive changes to acknowledge our significant cultural impact, the past year alone has shown that there is still work to do in addressing the issues and concerns of our community. As you proceed with the important process of redrawing the district maps, the Commissioners must keep in mind the decades of marginalization, underrepresentation, and rising violence against the AAPI community.

It is more important than ever to consider the growing Asian communities in San Diego and redrawing the boundaries in District 6 is the only way to ensure that there is a fair representation of AAPI voices in our city. Including UC San Diego and the adjacent neighborhoods would reflect the breadth and diversity of our community as this proposed district map will increase AAPI representation from 30% to over 40%. Further, it highlights the cultural hub in the Convoy District, residential neighborhoods of all income levels and housing types, and the academic institution that brought so many of us to the region and continues to provide opportunity to future graduating AAPI leaders.

UTC and the entire UC San Diego ecosystem has grown in terms of employees, faculty, students, and partner institutions. Housing and transportation continue to be major issues facing these neighborhoods. UC San Diego students, who have been particularly marginalized in these discussions, have shared values and interests that align more with the existing neighborhoods in District 6, and will support maintaining and growing the district's rich diversity.

Representation matters. We call for the Commissioners to ensure an AAPI influenced district is expanded in the City of San Diego. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Neighborhood Voices San Diego
Alliance of Chinese Americans, San Diego
APAPA San Diego
Associated Students of UC San Diego
Korean Americans Coalition
Office of Local Affairs, Associated Students of UC San Diego
Organization of Chinese Americans of San Diego
Our Time to Act United
Rancho Penasquitos Town Council Redistricting Committee

Individuals (Partial List):

Aidan Lin
Annabella Griffo
Chenyang Rickard
Chih-Wu Chang
Chin-Tuan Brocade Wu Harmon
Darshana Patel
David Kodama
Debbie Discar-Espe
Diana Cohen
Eddie Park
GilAnthony Ungab MD
Indroneal Banerjee
James Langley
Jeff He
Jon Pak
Judy Ki (Fung Han)
Junyao Xiao
Kate Glenn
Khoa Nguyen
Lauren Garces
Li-Rong Lilly Cheng
Michael Kurima
Pei-Tei Chang
Robert P. Ito
Ron Cho
Wei-hsiung Kitty Wheat

