

Written Public Comments
for **Item No. 4**

From: [Nathan Chan](#)
To: [Sukhmani Purewal](#)
Cc: [espinoza.rudy@gmail.com](#); [ndavis@fortitudedcareers.org](#); [Ksallander09@gmail.com](#); [mlguerrero611@gmail.com](#); [nadiabp711@gmail.com](#)
Subject: Letter to the Board
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 6:53:39 PM

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Hi Suki,

The six of us commissioners want to submit the following letter officially to the Board of Supervisors ahead of their meeting next week:

Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

It was our honor and privilege to serve on the County's District Lines Advisory Commission. As you recognized at your November 9th meeting, we had to balance many different concerns and spent a great deal of time talking about these trade-offs before recommending the two maps. We took our responsibility to represent and speak for our communities of interest very seriously.

We, the undersigned Commissioners, therefore want to remind the board that a majority of the commission voted not to advance the Minimum Change Map suggested by NDC. We believed we had a once-in-a-decade opportunity to move away from the status quo, as told by the countless community members through public comment, social media posts, and private conversations. Both maps draw from extensive community input, and as you witnessed in your last meeting, have the community's support.

The Board is to be commended for creating the commission, emphasizing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the application, and recruiting a third party in the League of Women Voters to interview candidates. The Board of Supervisors must take the commission's recommendations seriously to truly acknowledge the much-needed change in San Mateo County. It is up to the Supervisors to take decisive action to set our County up for a more just future rather than a continuation of the past.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Nadia Bledsoe
Commissioner Nathan Chan
Commissioner Nicole Davis
Commissioner Rudy Espinoza Murray

Commissioner Miguel Guerrero
Commissioner Kailen Sallender

From: [Nadia Popyack](#)
To: [Sukhmani Purewal](#)
Subject: District Lines Commission recommendation
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 12:20:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Greetings Sukhi-

Could you please distribute this to Board members in advance of the meeting tomorrow. If possible, I would like it read into the record so as to save time for speakers from the public who have not had time to give their input.

Honorable David Canepa, President of the Board of Supervisors
Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors

I would like to thank you for the privilege of having served on the District Lines Commission. I would like to clarify that the letter which you received from the Commission Chair and two other commissioners recommending autonomy for the commission and adding supervisory districts were individual opinions. Without discounting the merit of either proposal, I am duty bound to point out that the commission neither discussed at length, nor voted on either concept.

I would like to offer what I hope will be construed as constructive ideas for future commissions.

Outreach

Although we did receive a lot of public comment towards the end of the process, I think it was our most problematic issue. Contacting the public through the print media, city council comments and social media was a very passive approach. I suggest that for future endeavors the Board authorize the Health System or Human Services Agency to create a number of Extra Help or Term positions in the Community Worker position (or alternately assign permanent Community Worker employees) for six to eight months to actively reach out to the community to solicit input on the community of interest issue. These workers could reach out to community members in existing county settings (e.g., clinics), nonprofit and support groups for renters, veterans, and other hard-to-reach groups, faith organizations and various ethnic constituencies. The Community worker position is an agile classification that would easily adapt to this effort.

Demography Consultants

There were problems with posting two of the maps proposed by two of the commissioners that were rectified, but belatedly. I think naming the maps after individual commissioners also conjure up political allegiances in the community that don't belong in the process. Encouraging map proposers to name their map would help, or stick with numbered maps.

Overall

I think overall there should have been a training or some discussion on how the final product would be developed and recommended. Many seemed unfamiliar with the various ways that maps could be discussed, ranked, and recommended which was detrimental in the end.

I favored bringing both the Espinoza map and the Unity map before you. Of the two, I wholeheartedly support what is termed the Espinoza map which I find to be fair, equitable and in keeping with the wishes of constituents in District 3 and throughout the county.

**Respectfully submitted,
Nadia Bledsoe**

From: [Miriam Yupanqui](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [Don Horsley](#); [Carole Groom](#); [David Canepa](#); [Dave Pine](#)
Cc: [Justin Mates](#)
Subject: Map Names
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 3:38:39 PM

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Dear Supervisors,

As the Unity Map Coalition, we are surprised that the new redistricting maps are labeled Unity Map adjusted 1 and 2. There are so many changes that it is not something that the Coalition can not support at the moment. It is not connected to the spirit of the Coalition, and we are concerned that they are labeled "Unity Map" at all. Please consider changing the maps' names to differentiate them from the Unity Map Coalition.

We will separately submit a map that does address the concerns raised by Supervisor Pine.

Sincerely,
the Unity Map Coalition



Miriam Yupanqui, MPA, Executive Director

[Nuestra Casa de East Palo Alto](#) | myupanqui@nuestracasa.org

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From: [Cade Cannedy](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [Don Horsley](#); [Carole Groom](#); [David Canepa](#); [Dave Pine](#)
Cc: [Justin Mates](#); [Violet Saena](#)
Subject: Adjusted Unity Map Feedback
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:15:52 PM

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Honorable Supervisors,

My name is Cade Cannedy, I work for Climate Resilient Communities and am part of the Unity Map Coalition. Our Coalition has reviewed NDC's newly adjusted maps labeled "adjusted Unity Maps 1 and 2." At this point, we are all very displeased with this process. These maps do not represent the Unity Map Coalition's goals nor does it take into consideration Supervisor Pine's feedback on our original Unity Map.

Supervisor Pine suggested that we look into adding San Bruno to the Bayside in our original map since San Bruno shares concerns with the Bayside, especially flooding issues east of El Camino.

We have worked with the ACLU and AAAJ in response to the Supervisor's request. [Please find our Unity Map - San Bruno revision](#), linked here.

NDC did not follow our intent nor address Supervisor Pine's concerns. We think we have a better version. It would help if NDC can provide an analysis similar to what they have done for the other maps.

We would also appreciate our name being removed from the maps created by NDC that are linked to the agenda.

Sincerely,
Cade Cannedy
The Unity Map Coalition
Program Manager at Climate Resilient Communities

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Cade Cannedy
Program Manager
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575-776-7667

From: [Caroline Beckman](#)
To: [Justin Mates](#); [CMO BoardFeedback](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [Don Horsley](#); [Carole Groom](#); [David Canepa](#); [Dave Pine](#)
Subject: Feedback on Adjusted Unity Map
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:23:20 PM

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Honorable Supervisors,

My name is Caroline Beckman, and I work for Climate Resilient Communities, a part of the Unity Map Coalition. I am writing on behalf of both myself and CRC's Executive Director, Violet Saena. Our Coalition has reviewed NDC's newly adjusted maps labeled "adjusted Unity Maps 1 and 2." These maps do not represent the Unity Map Coalition's goals nor does it take into consideration Supervisor Pine's feedback on our original Unity Map. At this point, we are greatly displeased by the process.

Supervisor Pine suggested that we look into adding San Bruno to the Bayside in our original map since San Bruno shares concerns with the Bayside, especially flooding issues east of El Camino.

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NDC did not follow our intent nor addressed Supervisor Pine's concerns. We think we have a better version. It would help if NDC can provide an analysis similar to what they have done for the other maps.

We would also appreciate our name being removed from the maps created by NDC that are linked to the agenda.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Caroline Beckman
The Unity Map Coalition
AmeriCorps VISTA Fellow at Climate Resilient Communities

From: [Pam D Jones](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: 4. Supervisorial District Maps
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:31:28 PM

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Honorable Supervisors and Staff,

The establishment of a redistricting commission is the first step in removing any politicization of redistricting. The second step is to follow the requirements as outlined in the Fair Maps Act of 2017. Specifically it states:

“To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single supervisorial district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.”

Fair representation translates to equity. The word equity is used 20 times in the *Resolution to Advance and Improve San Mateo Racial Equity Efforts* unanimously approved. I was hopeful that there would be an understanding that **communities of interest** identify themselves rather than being identified by the establishment or a corporation.

Unfortunately, the Unity Map created by the Unity Coalition has been redrawn in a way that more resembles the Minimal Change Map and generally maintains the status quo. It is difficult to create an environment of racial and social justice when how we define ourselves is dismissed and changing the narrative is not part of the commitment.

Therefore, I urge you to use a lens of equity to validate the voices of the **communities of interest** and support the Unity Map revised by the Unity Coalition which is being sent to you in a separate email. A commitment to “advancing racial equity, belonging, and diversity in all aspects of County Government and program structure” is demonstrated when you lift up the voices of the communities of interest.

Respectfully, Pam D Jones, resident Menlo Park, Belle Haven neighborhood

The impossible dissipates when I becomes WE.