

## Rivera, Sandra, CDA

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**From:** AlCo Redistricting <organize@alcoredistricting.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2021 3:13 PM  
**To:** Carson, Keith, Supv BOS Dist 5; Valle, Richard, Probation; Brown, Briana, BOS District 5; Bazar, Chris, CDA; BOS District 4; Brown, Dave, BOS Dist 3; Rivera, Sandra, CDA; Henninger, Tona, BOS Dist4; Chan, Wilma, BOS Dist 3; Farmer, Casey, CDA; Haubert, David, Supv BOS Dist 1; Clerk of the Board; Ziegler, Donna, County Counsel; Wilson, Shawn, BOS Dist 1; Miley, Christopher, BOS Dist 2  
**Subject:** Please follow the intent of the FAIR MAPS Act  
**Categories:** Redistricting

Hello!

Hope Friday is treating you well.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter in your next meeting or via email.

To the Board of Supervisors and County Staff:

As we approach the next phase of county redistricting, we respectfully remind you that the 2019 redistricting laws -- the FAIR MAPS Act -- require us all to take the newly inclusive redistricting process seriously. At the public meeting on October 12, your trusted consultant, Karin MacDonald, was articulate in laying out the new laws. Thanks to the FAIR MAPS Act, there are now standardized *ranked* criteria that the Board must adhere to when creating new maps. The new districts must:

- 1.
- 2.
3. Be of nearly equal population
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. Comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
11. Be geographically contiguous
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
15. Respect communities of interest
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
19. Respect cities and census designated places
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.

23. Use recognizable natural and artificial boundaries
24. to the greatest extent possible
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
  
28. Be as compact as possible, given the other priorities.
  
- 29.

The current boundaries follow some, but not all, of these new criteria. Demographics, communities, and neighborhoods have changed over the past decade. To be legally compliant, Alameda County's district boundaries must change substantially. In principle, the Board has recognized this fact. However, giving deference to the 2011 boundaries by using them as a baseline, is concerning. We encourage you to recognize that the law and our County have changed and that the current boundaries are not an appropriate baseline for this redistricting process.

Some of the legal requirements—for example, population demographics, along with the physical landscape (freeways and geography) -- are easy to determine. However, one of the most important -- communities of interest -- involves gathering qualitative data on what communities mean to individuals. This means reaching out to and hearing from those people. And it means listening to those voices. Respecting communities of interest is a highly ranked criterion, and by law must be considered ahead of the criteria of respecting cities, compactness, and following natural and artificial boundaries.

At the meeting of October 12, 2021, Supervisors questioned the need for restating the Community of Interest (COI) testimony at every meeting. The staff presenter stated that new COI information continued to be submitted for consideration. Our contention is by taking the time to listen, as a Board, you are saying to your constituents: "We hear you. We take you seriously. We are in partnership with you." By taking this testimony publicly, you also give those attending or viewing it later a chance to review it alongside you and understand your reactions.

As the process draws to a close, it is your job to reach out, listen, and make the final map selection as open and inclusive as possible. This will ensure that the best boundaries, that comply with the new laws, are drawn.

Respectfully,

Trish Munro, Vice Mayor, City of Livermore

Kyoko Takayama, Volunteer Lead All On The Line CA

Andrew Turnbull

Sara Lamnin, Hayward City Council Member

Penelope Anne Hughes

Julie Roche, Esq., Chair, Hayward Planning Commission

Pat Payne

L. Shay Roberson

Jen Cavanaugh, Piedmont City Council Member

Igor Tregub, Chair, Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group

Martha Kreeger, Chair, Southern Alameda County Group, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter

Anne Adams, ILC, CRIL

Joyce Dobro

\*Titles used for identification purposes

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