

November 30, 2021

Supervisor Keith Carson
Supervisor Nathan Miley
Supervisor Richard Valle
Supervisor David Haubert
Supervisor Dave Brown

Gentlemen,

I fully support the decision by the Board of Supervisors in their choice of Map A. I would encourage the Board to maintain District Four as it is today and that no changes be made with the Pleasanton portion. The exponential growth of District 1 since the last census and shows signs of a continuation of this pattern. This indicates that the Tri-Valley would best be served with two supervisors.

If I might make a suggestion, I urge the Board to look at the redistricting map as an opportunity to give the Unincorporated Eden Area a minimum of three supervisors. Taking this action would bring the Eden Unincorporated Area closer to a representative body. I believe this could be accomplished with a slight tweak of District Two. The Eden Unincorporated Area has a population of 150,000 plus. It is larger than some of the cities in Alameda County which are represented by a local city council. Thus, my reasoning behind my suggestion that it should be represented by a minimum of three supervisors. The definition of "community of interest" for the unincorporated area cannot be based solely on the definition in the California Code or Election Code. It is in a unique situation that perhaps was overlooked in the legislation.

Community of Interest was designed to mitigate problems with the State Legislative reapportionment. As it pertains to supervisorial seats, it states "**may**" consider COI. This consideration of COI has led to very divisive comments and separates us, rather than, unites us. I have brothers, nieces and nephews that live in different parts of the county. In fact, they live in D1, D2 and D5. I shop in D1, D3 and D4. It is safe to say that I consider more than D4 my COI.

It was disappointing to me to hear the comments made by some county residents when they defined their Community of Interest. I admit these comments always dismay me because I want to believe that we are making progress in accepting our diversity.

There is no room for small thinkers as we recover from this pandemic. My community of interest is the entire county. I am sad and frustrated at the loss of life in Oakland. I empathize with parents in the unincorporated area who must walk their children to school because of sidewalk issues. I wonder what will become of the homeless who do not receive the behavioral healthcare they need. We are a large county what impacts one area will trickle into all our lives sooner, than later. Do not be lulled into thinking that poverty, violence and health issues do not impact the whole county. It just doesn't make the evening news.

I leave you with this thought. Can/Should the board add a section to their meeting agenda and sit as representatives of the entire unincorporated areas? This section would allow a discussion solely related to the unincorporated areas. This addition would bring the unincorporated areas closer to the board acting as the unincorporated areas representative body. This would benefit all unincorporated areas of Alameda County. There is great diversity in geography and issues when speaking of unincorporated Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol, Berkeley or the Eden area. The unincorporated areas are both urban and agricultural. Let us celebrate and enjoy our diversity, not use COI to divide us.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views. You have a tough job ahead of you. Blessings to all.

Linda Tangren
Castro Valley