

From: Olivia Seideman <oseideman@leadershipcounsel.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Redistricting - Merced County <Redistricting@countyofmerced.com>
Cc: Aracely G. Gonzalez <aggonzalez@leadershipcounsel.org>
Subject: Public Comment Re: Community of Interest in Merced Co

Hello,

My name is Olivia Seideman and I'm the Civic Engagement Coordinator with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, a community-based organization that works alongside community leaders in Santa Nella, Dos Palos, and Los Banos.

After extensive discussions with community leaders, we urge the Board to keep together the distinct community of interest of Santa Nella, Dos Palos, and Los Banos. These communities share many characteristics and face many of the same issues. Los Banos is the commercial center of the community, with Dos Palos and Santa Nella residents traveling to Los Banos for shopping and other services.

Residents from these three communities have created coalitions to advocate for their shared needs. Dividing them into separate districts would reduce the political power they've built up over the years, cracking this community.

Of the current maps proposed to the Board, none of the legally compliant maps currently include Los Banos, Dos Palos, and Santa Nella fully in one district. We hope that the Board will adjust any of the proposed maps to ensure that these three communities - a distinct community of interest - are contained in one supervisorial district.

Best,
Olivia Seideman

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