

Hello,

My name is Olivia Seideman, Civic Engagement Coordinator with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, a community-based organization that works alongside residents in South Merced on issues such as land use, housing, and water access.

Attached to this email is a PNG of a Merced City BOS district, created in DistrictR. We strongly urge the Board to ensure that the blue district is South Merced's district, which was drawn based on our work with the South Merced communities. The boundaries of this district are:

- **North:** W Olive Ave between Spelling Hwy and McKee Rd
- **East:** McKee Rd at Santa Fe Ave, along Baker Drive to the Farmdale Lateral Canal down to E Childs Ave, then down Campus Parkway to E Mission Ave, down Healy Rd to Vassar Ave
- **South:** Vassar Ave between Healy Rd and Los Banos Hwy; W Dickenson Ferry Rd between Los Banos Hwy and S Thornton Ave
- **West:** S Thornton Rd between W Dickenson Ferry Rd and McSwain Rd; X St between McSwain Rd and Hwy 99; Snelling Hwy between W Olive Ave and V St

The current District 1, which groups South Merced with Livingston and Planada, dilutes the voice of South Merced residents. Livingston and Planada are much more agricultural communities, while South Merced has more in common with other City of Merced communities (namely Central Merced). For example, residents in unincorporated South Merced that rely on private wells and septic tanks would like to connect to the City of Merced's water and sewer infrastructure and are actively trying to do so. Additionally, both incorporated and unincorporated south Merced residents have advocated together to bring resources, such as grocery stores, sidewalks/trails and parks, to South Merced that would enhance its quality of life and make it comparable to neighborhoods in north Merced. It should also be mentioned that much of the new growth areas in Merced are located on the north side near the UC; thus separating South Merced from central and north Merced only further segregates this area within the City of Merced (mainly in District 2), while also giving it little to no representation in District 1 amongst other communities. It is critical for South Merced to have a meaningful voice within its county district.

Many of the proposed maps thus far similarly group South Merced (South of Hwy 99) with Livingston, Planada, and other rural communities. We urge the Board to instead group South Merced with similar communities in the City of Merced.

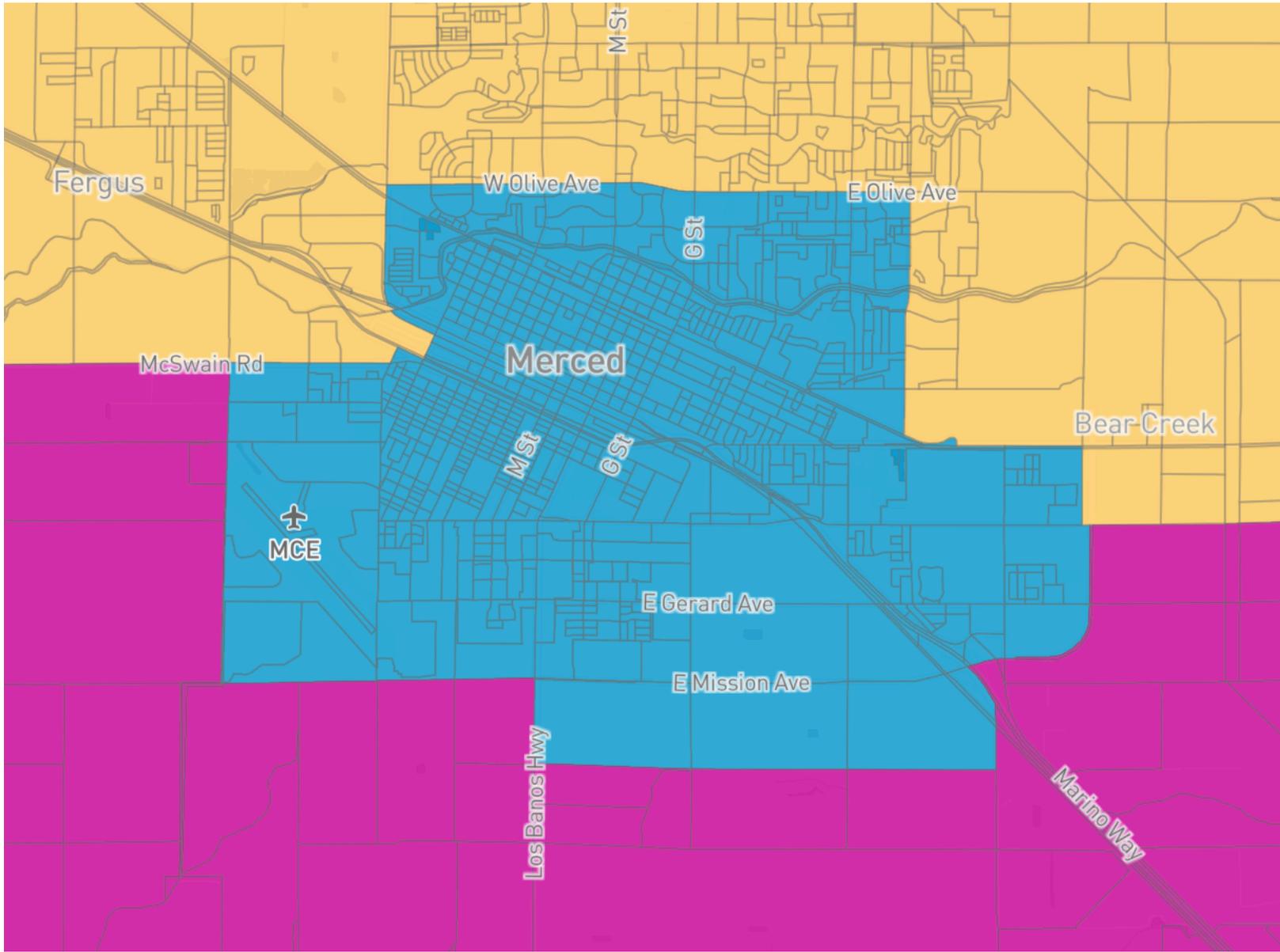
Using DistrictR, the attached image's blue district includes South and Central Merced. The population of this district is 56,803 - close to the ideal district size of 56,219.6. It is 59.2% Hispanic/Latino CVAP; Merced County must have two effective VRA districts with a majority Hispanic/Latino CVAP.

As such, we urge the Board to adopt a supervisorial map that uses this district for South Merced and Central Merced, preserving an important community of interest and giving voice to the residents of South Merced.

Best,
Olivia Seideman

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Olivia Seideman (she/her)
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From: redistricting@countyofmerced.com <redistricting@countyofmerced.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 10:17 AM

Subject: New submission from Contact Us

December 5, 2021

Dear Members of the Merced County Board of Supervisors,

After attending the August Workshop and watching the Nov. 16th Public Hearing I have prepared a map (d85816). Much of what is in it was based on sitting at a table at the workshop with people from Gustine, Livingston and Franklin/Beachwood as well as the City of Merced. I heard their concerns. I have served on the Library Advisory Commission for 23 years representing District 4, a district that stretches across the County, and I understand how difficult it can be to really know the very diverse communities' in such a large area. I do appreciate our Supervisor's valiant efforts to get to all the communities in order to learn about them and their needs in the district's very large, diverse area.

The reasons I have drawn the map as it is are as follows...

1. It seems to better honor a sense of common bonds in the various communities and with rural residents.
2. I have always felt it was a mistake to isolate south Merced (south of Hwy 99) from the rest of the city by having only that portion of the city in one district. Therefore I think it is preferable to divide the City at Bear Creek.
3. People in Livingston have felt little or no commonality to most of the rest of their existing district. They seem to feel some connection to Delhi and Hilmar.
4. I don't think Atwater and Winton should be divided into different districts.
5. I made sure that the Franklin/Beachwood area was included in a Merced district.
6. This map makes sense and makes districts more manageable for Supervisors. Because the districts will include more of the area where they live, shop and travel, they will know and understand the people in their districts better.
7. Though the area that includes Livingston is large it does include communities that share common interests, contact and communication.
8. I regret that it changes supervisorial districts by having Snelling and Atwater in the same district. I could not find a way to avoid creating a map, which puts two Supervisors in the same district ,and still achieve what I personally thought would be best for Merced County residents.

Thank you for considering my map and my comments.

Catherine Weber
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