

October 28, 2021

San Mateo County 2021 Supervisorial
District Lines Advisory Commission
Sent via e-mail: districtlines@smcgov.org

Re: Unity Map Coalition Proposal

Dear Members of the District Lines Advisory Commission:

We write to present our Unity Map Coalition's proposed San Mateo County supervisorial district map, attached hereto. We thank you for the time, effort, and thoughtfulness that you have brought to this process and for your commitment to hearing community voices and creating fair maps.

The Unity Map Coalition is made up of Nuestra Casa, One East Palo Alto (OEPA), Climate Resilient Communities, Community Equity Collaborative, Belle Haven Action, Rise SSF plus individuals from BACHAC, Puente, Peninsula for Everyone, SF Peninsula People Power, Daly City Partnership, and Casa Circulo Cultural. Together, we represent a diverse range of geographic areas and communities across the county. As a coalition rooted in the pursuit of equity, our aim is to uplift the needs of marginalized communities across San Mateo County in the County's redistricting process. We have connected with over 13 different community based organizations, as well as individual community leaders, to discuss our communities of interest and create a single map that respects our communities, as well as other priorities that members of the public have submitted to the Advisory Commission.

The Unity Map both complies with the FAIR MAPS Act redistricting criteria and ensures fair representation, so that we can all continue to build a more equitable San Mateo County. The proposed districts are substantially equal in population and comply with the mandates of the United States Constitution as well as the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. The map also maintains neighborhoods and communities of interest, which is one of the top-ranked criteria for map-drawing. The map reflects the many diverse communities of San Mateo County, including communities made up of immigrants, farm-workers, low-income people, people struggling with home affordability and displacement, and people facing environmental risks. We also strove to maintain cities and census designated places, to follow natural and artificial boundaries, and to create compact districts. In some instances, cities were split to achieve the higher-ranked goal of keeping communities of interest whole; however, we strove to limit city splits.

We firmly believe respecting communities of interest is essential in this process. Below is a summary of how our Unity Map keeps communities of interest whole and together, while also respecting other redistricting criteria.

District 1

- Keeps together much of the Bay Shore coastline, including South San Francisco, Millbrae, Burlingame, San Mateo, and Foster City.
 - Communities that live in these areas, especially those east of the railroad tracks, have shared interests related to their proximity to the Bay coastline, including concerns about sea level rise and flooding. As these environmental issues are addressed on the county level, it is particularly important to have Supervisorial representation for Bay Shore coast communities.
 - Many people in these areas have shared socioeconomic concerns as well. For example, these areas have many renters and people who are particularly housing-cost burdened. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bay Shore coastline struggles with the highest poverty rates in San Mateo County. Various neighborhoods along Highway 101 report poverty rates above 30%. In large parts of Redwood City, East Palo Alto, South San Francisco, and even San Mateo, nearly 50% of residents are housing-cost burdened.
 - There are also many immigrants and people of color in the neighborhoods east of El Camino Real and along Highway 101. The Bay Shore coastline is home to a very large share of limited English proficient households and foreign-born residents. According to recent Census data, foreign-born residents make up over 40% of the population in the Bay-adjacent neighborhoods of South San Francisco, Burlingame, San Mateo, Foster City, and East Palo Alto.
- Keeps together most of the city of South San Francisco, with the exception of two neighborhoods with large Filipino American communities (Buri Buri and Westborough) that have been placed in District 5 due to a shared Filipino American community of interest.
- Respects the integrity of communities impacted by flights entering and exiting San Francisco International Airport (SFO). Communities of interest near the airport have similar interests being impacted by sound pollution.

District 2

- Keeps the western parts of Burlingame, San Mateo, and other communities located in the hills together. People living in these areas have a strong interest in preserving neighborhood character, as well as fire prevention due to their location in the hills and proximity to open space.

- Keeps together a cluster of unincorporated areas that are adjacent to each other, including Burlingame Hills, Devonshire, Highlands/Baywood Park, Palomar Park.
- The City of Belmont is kept whole.

District 3

- Respects the coastal community of interest by keeping most of the coastline together in one district, including Pacifica. Coastal communities have identified shared interests such as resources and infrastructure for rural communities, services for farmworkers and for immigrants, and access to healthcare and childcare.
- Keeps most of San Mateo's unincorporated communities together, including El Granada, Emerald Lake Hills, La Honda, Ladera, Loma Mar, Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde, Menlo Oaks, Montara, Moss Beach, Pescadero, Princeton, San Gregorio, South Coast/Skyline, Sequoia Tract, Skylonda, and Stanford Lands.
- Pacifica is kept whole.

District 4

- Keeps together communities of interest in Belle Haven, North Fair Oaks, East Palo Alto and parts of Redwood City.
 - These neighborhoods are home to both Latino and Pacific Islander communities of interest.
 - Communities in these neighborhoods have many shared socio-economic characteristics and have shared interests around fighting gentrification and displacement, access to social services, and investment in public education.
 - Additionally, many residents are foreign-born and have limited English proficiency.
- Keeps communities along the Bay Shore coastline together due to shared concerns about sea level rise.
- Menlo Park is kept whole.

District 5

- This is a strong Asian American majority district.
- There is a Filipino American community of interest that spans Daly City, Broadmoor, Colma, Westborough and Buri Buri. Shared community spaces, such as churches, shopping centers, and community centers, unite the Filipino American communities in these areas, as well as shared interests around healthcare and social services.
- Daly City has significant cultural and ethnic diversity. Many residents speak languages other than English and are immigrants, with shared interests around language access. Many residents of Daly City also have shared socioeconomic challenges, with a need for

safety net services, housing affordability, and investment in school and enrichment programs.

- Daly City is kept whole.

This proposal respects the integrity of communities of interest, acknowledges the commission's desire to minimize city splits, and most importantly, uplifts the voices of underrepresented communities across the County. We urge the Commission to recommend this map to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Thank you so much for your time and service to the people of San Mateo. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure equitable maps for our county. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Petra Siltan at petra@thrivealliance.org.

Sincerely,

Unity Map Coalition

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Diane Leeds, SF Peninsula People Power

Evan Adams, Peninsula For Everyone

Marya Ouro-Gbeleou, Daly City Partnership

Rita Mancera, ED, Puente De la Costa Sur

Stacey Davidson, Senior Event/Program Manager, Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council (BACHAC)

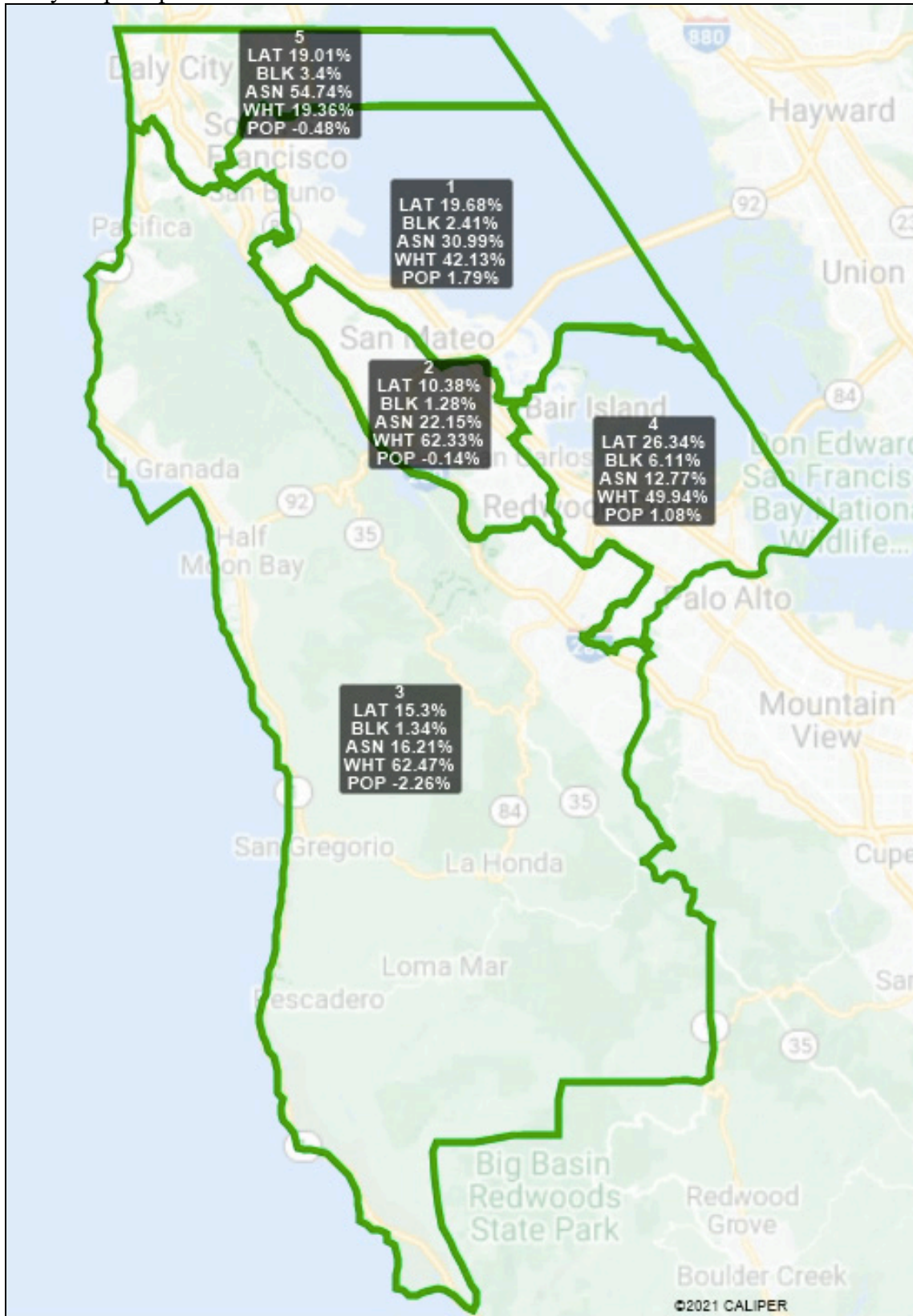
Julio Garcia, ED, Rise SSF

Victoria Robledo, Angie Bautista, & Julie Shanson, Belle Haven Action

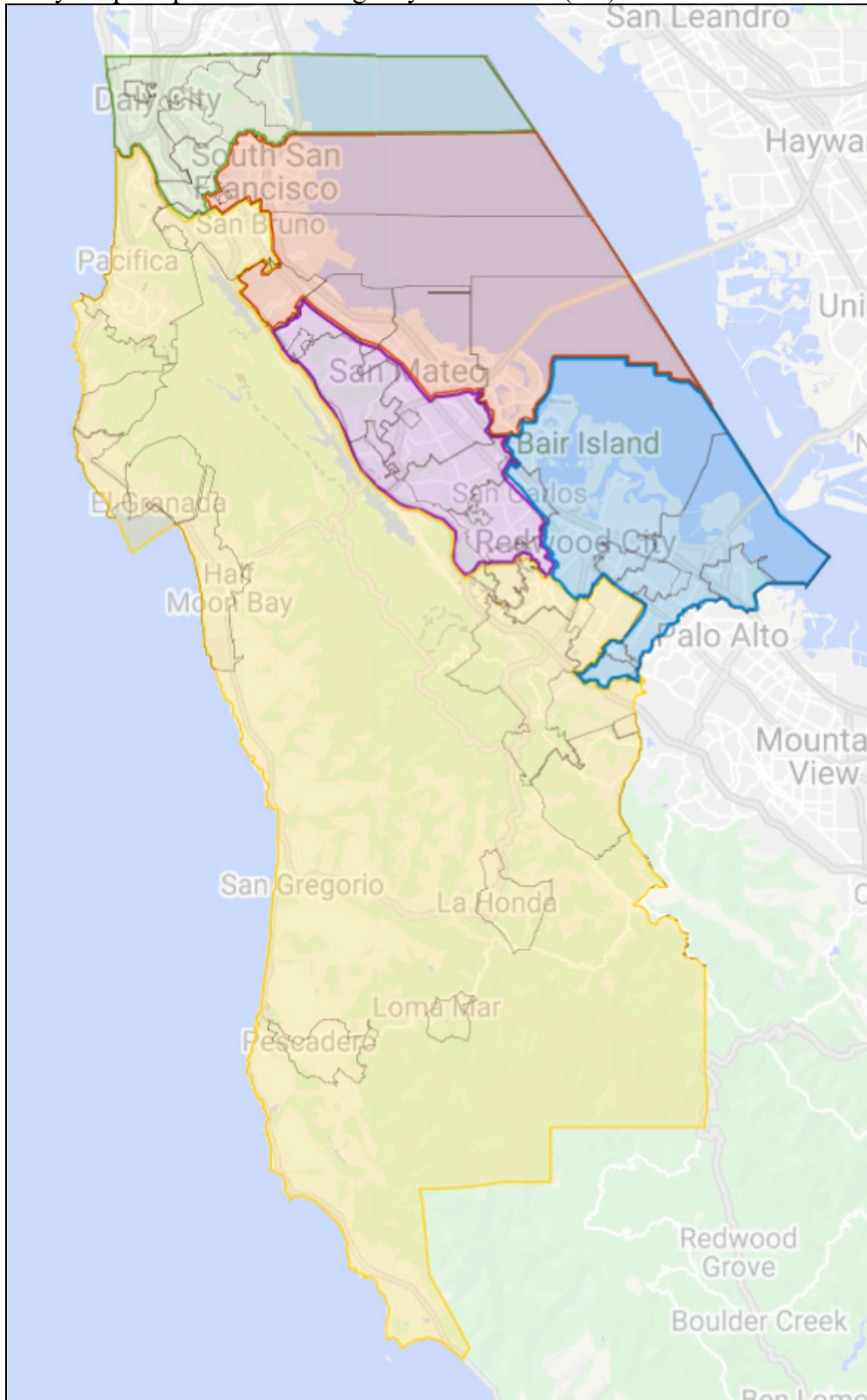
Violet Saena, Founder and ED, Climate Resilient Communities

Samuel Tavera, One East Palo Alto

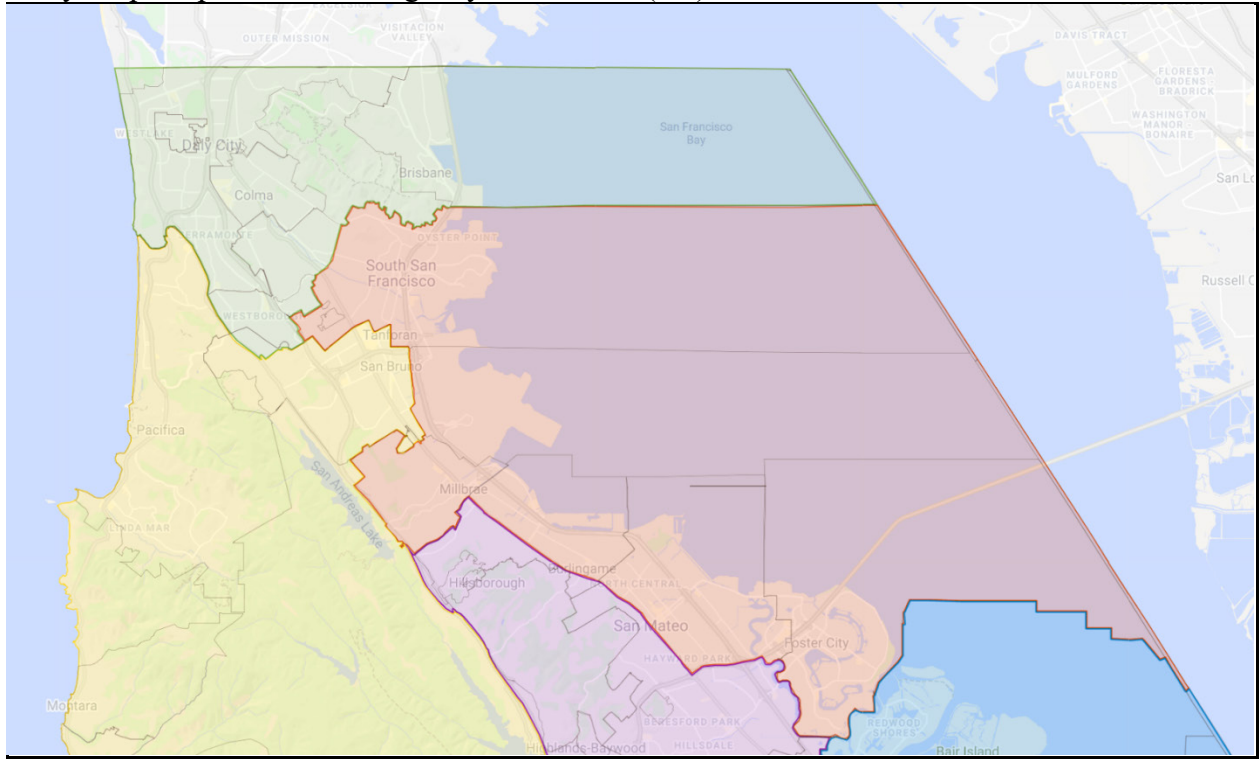
Unity Map Proposal with CVAP %



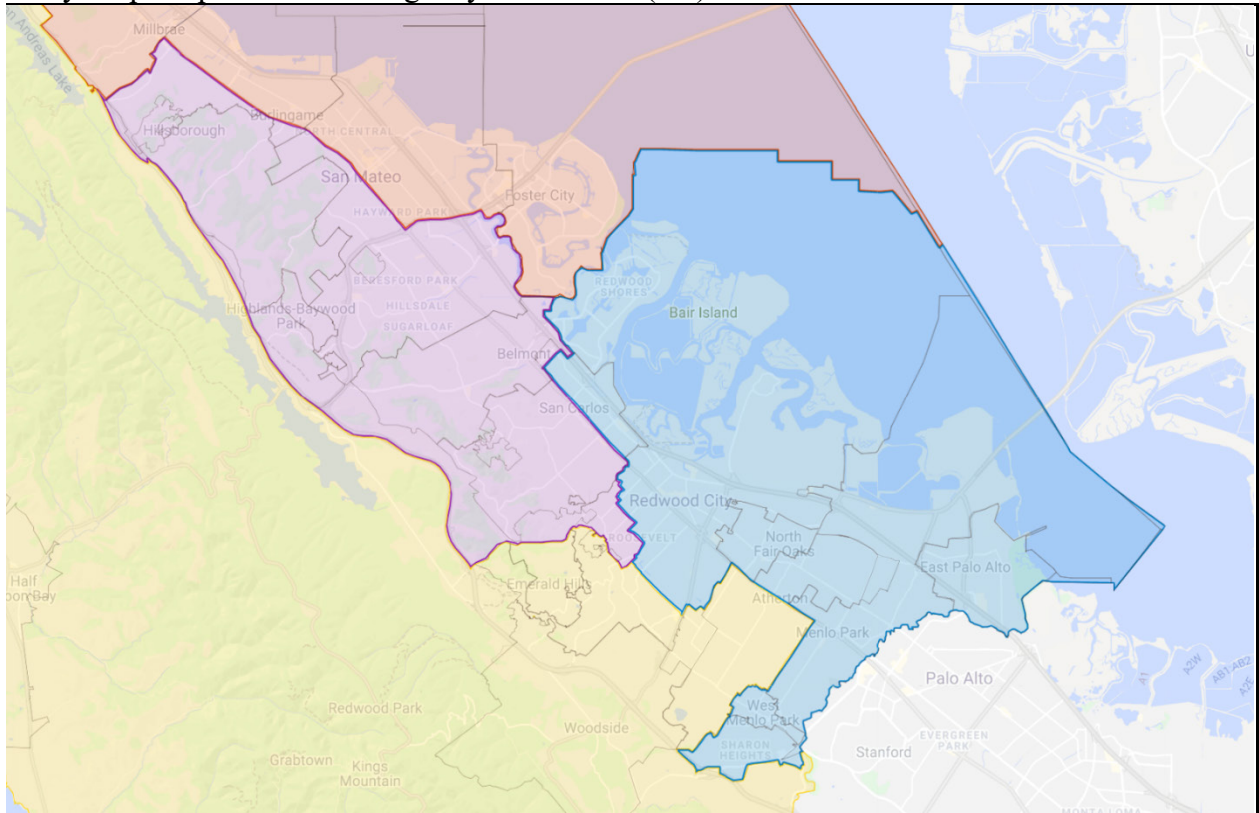
Unity Map Proposal w/ Existing City Boundaries (1/3)



Unity Map Proposal w/ Existing City Boundaries (2/3)



Unity Map Proposal w/ Existing City Boundaries (3/3)



Petra Silton (she/her)

Director of Advocacy & Education, Thrive