



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember David Cohen

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: December 7, 2021

Approved

Date: 12/07/2021

SUBJECT: City of San José Council District Redistricting

RECOMMENDATION

To efficiently transform the redistricting commission recommendation of three maps into a single map for council consideration by the deadline of January 11, 2022, utilize the map attached as Exhibit A as the starting point for council discussion of drawing new district boundaries.

BACKGROUND

I want to thank the redistricting commission for all their work on this very difficult subject. Additionally, I appreciate all the public input that helps guide the Council toward a map that addresses the needs of our growing city.

What has become evident in the public testimony we heard at the November 30th public hearing is that there is no clear consensus amongst the public regarding the three maps that the redistricting commission has submitted as their recommendation. Further, as the decision-makers, it is incumbent upon our City Council to develop a process for determining the final district map that is authentic so that our community has confidence in the outcome. Therefore, the task at hand is to take the recommendation from the redistricting commission and transform that recommendation into the Council's map.

I believe that it will be a very difficult process to take these three maps and try to consolidate them into one map at a live council meeting. Therefore, I propose that we use a new map that combines elements from each of the maps as our starting point for council discussion.

The proposed starting map preserves the integrity of downtown, using Hwy 87 as a dividing line between District 3 and District 6. It also keeps the Vendome neighborhood and Japantown together in the same district. The map uses the natural boundary of Stevens Creek and 880 to include Santana Row in District 1. Communities of interest, such as Berryessa; Alum Rock; and the Guadalupe Washington, Goodyear Mastic, Tamien, and Spartan Keyes neighborhoods are kept together as much as possible. In South San Jose, Districts 2 and 10 are realigned to better group similar neighborhoods, largely following Hwy 85 as a boundary between the districts. Finally, while the mapping tools may not adequately visualize the areas around Reid Hillview Airport, the intention is to keep the residential census tracts in D8 and the airport in D5. The population of each district deviates less than 5% from the average district size, reducing District 4 by 12,500 people and increasing the smallest district size from 94,000 to 98,500. The

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complete deviation is less than 8%. The data is shown in Exhibit B. Exhibit C includes a table that summarizes the differences between this map and the two primary maps of interest – the Community Map and the Unity Map.

By sending all three maps to council, the redistricting commission was essentially communicating that they had taken this work as far as they could. It's up to the City Council to see this through to the finish line. Here's a starting point, let's take this journey together and have thoughtful discussions, productive deliberations, and let's each make our cases for final recommendations of district boundaries. The residents of San José deserve nothing less.

Exhibit A – Council Map version 0.0

<https://districtr.org/plan/90644>

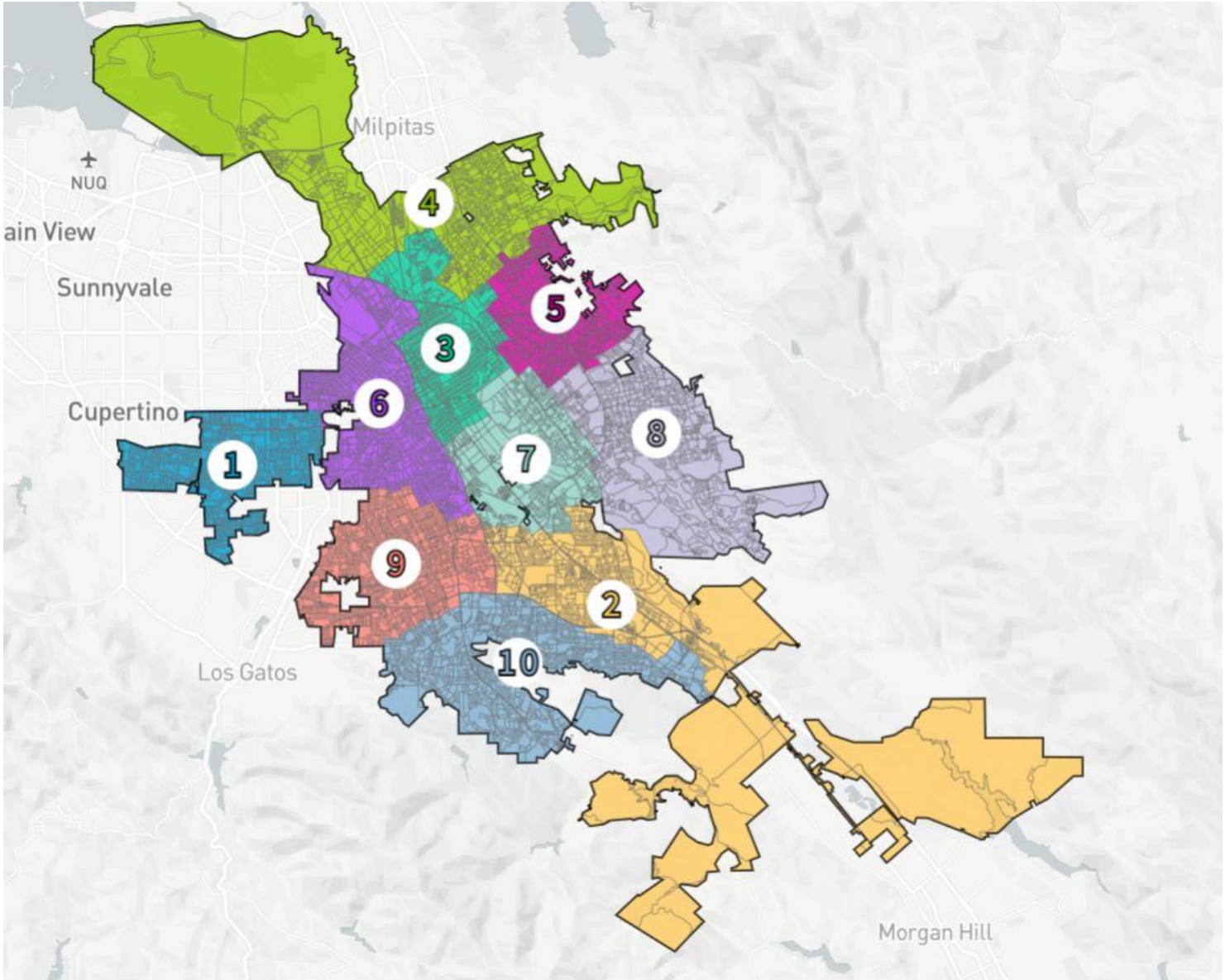
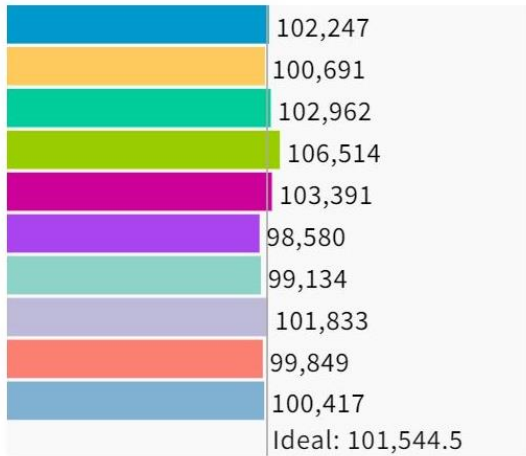


Exhibit B – Council Map version 0.0 Population Data

▼ Population Balance

ⓘ Uses adjusted 2020 Decennial Census population with processing by Redistricting Partners on 2020 Blocks.



▼ Population by Race

COMPARE ▼
 WITH ▼
 AND ▼

	Asian	Hispanic	White
1	46.3%	19.3%	26.4%
2	33.6%	35.8%	21.4%
3	26.4%	45.8%	19.7%
4	64.6%	15.8%	13.7%
5	34.1%	55.4%	6%
6	18%	33.5%	38.2%
7	42.3%	45.1%	7.6%
8	61%	21.9%	11.8%
9	23%	20.7%	47.3%
10	29.9%	19.7%	41.9%
Overall	38.1%	31.3%	23.3%

▼ Citizen Voting Age Population by Race

COMPARE ▼
 WITH ▼
 AND ▼

	Asian	Hispanic	Black
1	34.1%	13.3%	3.2%
2	29.6%	29.2%	4.1%
3	25.2%	35.9%	4.6%
4	57.1%	16%	2.6%
5	37.8%	45.9%	2.3%
6	12.7%	24%	4.2%
7	47.8%	34.9%	2.1%
8	55%	21.3%	2.7%
9	15.4%	14.9%	2.4%
10	22.8%	15.1%	2.4%
Overall	33.4%	24.7%	3%

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Exhibit C – Summary of map differences				
Areas of Interest	Community Map	Unity Map	Council 0.0 Map	Description
Downtown San Jose	x			Downtown San Jose remains in D3 with historic neighborhoods like Naglee Park, Japantown, Northside and SJSU.
Vendome	x			Returns Vendome to D3 alongside with Japantown.
D3/D6 Border			x	Use I-87 as a border heading North until Mission St to include Hyde Park NA, Rincon South and Rosemary Gardens into D6.
D6 West of I-880	x	x		Keeps Cory Neighborhood in D6, like both maps, but adds Santana Row area to D1 like the Unity Map.
D4/D3/D6 Northern Border	x			Airport, Rincon South and Rosemary Gardens into D6, and extending District 3 north into Orchard, North Valley and Brokaw neighborhoods.
D6/D9 Border			x	The Community Map uses boundaries of Husted and Curtner and moving Canoas Gardens into D9. The Unity Map keeps Canoas Gardens in D6 and sets boundaries at Bird and Minnesota. This map splits the difference, drawing a line between these two borders, which includes Canoas Gardens in D6 (along Blue Jay and Pitkin Loop) heads north on Lincoln to Curtner, heads East to Cottle, North to Pine Ave until it becomes Hamilton Ave.
Communications Hill		x		Communications Hill stays in D7.
Four Corners neighborhoods (Thousand Oaks, Pinehurst, Erickson and Tatra)	x	x		Like in both the Unity and Community Map, these neighborhoods stay together within D9.
VEP Neighborhoods (Carson, Parkview, Gunderson and Vista Park)		x		These neighborhoods stay together, as they do in both the maps, but are placed in D2 like the Unity Map.
D2/D10 Border			x	In response to the Unity Map supporters' concerns about the differences in communities of interest north and south of 85, we adopt districts that go East/West rather than North/South in Districts 2 and 10. Due to comments of concerns from supporters of the Community Map about the shapes of those Districts, this map offers a compromise, more compact districts using 85 and 87 as the primary boundaries.
D5/D4 Border	x			Adopts the Community Map's boundary.