

Submitted Written Public Testimony 2021-2022 Redistricting Process

October 26, 2021 Public Hearing

- Email from Larry Alexander, on behalf of No More Napa Islands received on October 26, 2021.

December 14, 2021 Public Hearing

- Email from Kevin Teague received on December 13, 2021.
- Email from Amy Martenson, Chair, Napa County Progressive Alliance received on December 13, 2021

January 25, 2022 Public Hearing

- Email from Napa County Progressive Alliance Steering Committee received on January 25, 2022.

From: [Napa County Progressive Alliance](#)
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:16 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: [Scott Sedgley](#); [Steve Potter](#); [REDACTED] [David Campbell](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Public comment for special meeting on Oct. 26, 2021 Item 3A

Categories: Unverified Contact

[EXTERNAL]

Good evening, Napa City Council:

My name is Larry Alexander. I am chair of No More Napa Islands, an action team that is part of the Napa County Progressive Alliance, which advocates for immediate municipal annexation of all county islands eligible for LAFCO's streamlined annexation process to enfranchise their residents and bring them into the civic life of the City. On behalf of this group, I am here tonight to describe where I live and my community of interest-- the largest county island, the West Pueblo/Linda Vista county island.

My neighborhood is located south of Trancas and west of the Highway. It is completely surrounded by the City and is affected by City services and decisions, yet I am not a part of the City because for years the City has failed to annex my neighborhood, leaving us in the County. Had the City annexed this neighborhood, we would currently be a part of District 2 but are instead in no district with no opportunity to vote for a city council representative, the mayor, or city ballot initiatives. In other words, we have been disenfranchised

About 1,400 residents live in my neighborhood, which is predominantly working class and a majority Latinx. If annexed, it would be the lowest income neighborhood in the City. We lack storm drains, adequate lighting, and have poor streets. My neighborhood is shown as a gaping hole on the City's election map that was created in April 2020 for the last election, an election in which I did not get to vote, even though my wife works in the city and my son goes to a city high school.

When the City Council adopted its current election map, it cast aside information gathered regarding communities of interest and instead carved up Napa based on major roads and geographic features, touting the importance of easy-to-understand districts. What is easy to understand about portions of the City actually being in the County, including many streets that are part City and part County? Why isn't the City Council concerned about the voter confusion that creates or the fact that 1,400 underserved residents are not being counted and cannot vote?

The City has already mapped and completed an engineering study of the West Pueblo/Linda Vista island, the main precursors to annexation. It has only to pass a resolution in order to annex it and could still do so in time for its residents to be included in the redistricting process, so they could become a part of their district of choice, being close to three districts. For example, I believe that given our demographics and inadequate infrastructure that we have more in common with and would have a stronger vote being a part of the central district— District 4.

The county island issue came to light during the districting process almost two years ago. The City has had more than enough time to annex the largest islands and should at least annex the largest island, the West Pueblo/Linda Vista island, for which the City Council has nothing left to do except pass a resolution, now and in time for redistricting. As has been stated before by the City itself, "It is the right thing to do."

Sincerely,

Larry Alexander

No More Napa Islands, Co-chair



real estate law • land use law • business law • climate change law

December 13, 2021

Tiffany Carranza
City Clerk
City Hall
955 School Street
Napa, CA 94559

**Re: City of Napa Re-Districting Maps – Agenda Item 3.A,
City Council Public Hearing December 14, 2021**

Dear Ms. Carranza,

Please accept this letter as my personal comments to the City of Napa's 2022 re-districting process.

I want to start by acknowledging the good and sincere work done by the City of Napa staff and Council in both the prior, initial districting process as well as the current re-districting efforts. As you may recall, I attended every City Council meeting and submitted comments during the initial 2020 districting process. I attach those comments to this letter and resubmit them as applicable comments to the 2022 re-districting process. I hope you will take these comments into consideration again as you complete the process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

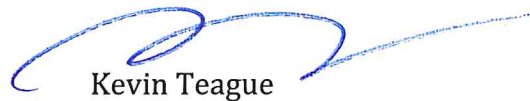
My prior comments spoke to the straightforward criteria and priorities for establishing district boundaries under California Elections law. The law states that along with a balanced population, the City of Napa shall create maps that prioritize (1) geographic continuity, (2) respecting the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods, (3) creating easily identifiable and understandable districts, and (4) not favoring the connection of more distant populations. I commend the City on its website and the presentations prepared by the City's consultants, which do a very good job explaining these criteria. In simple terms, the law's intent is to avoid gerrymandering.

State law required the City to follow those criteria and priorities in the adoption of the original district boundaries in 2020. The City did a great job in 2020 creating and adopting district maps that carefully applied the criteria and resulted in fair, thought-out and complaint districts. Because those same rules apply to re-districting and there was no major change in Napa's population distribution, the district maps adopted in 2020 should remain as the maps for in 2022.

In 2022, Napa continues to have highly integrated racial and economic neighborhoods. Minority groups, families and individuals evenly reside around Napa with majority groups. This is sometimes neighbor to next door neighbor throughout the City, like where I live near downtown, or in smaller neighborhood areas located throughout and integrated into the City. Like the City accomplished in 2020, the 2022 mapping process should not result in the segregation of Napa's communities, but instead should respect Napa's integrated neighborhoods, maintain districts that prioritize geographic continuity, retain districts that are easily identifiable and understandable, and keep neighborhoods compact and not connect more distant or isolated areas. For these reasons, I hope you will reject revising the district maps in any manner that departs from the reasoning and the logical geographic boundaries on which the 2020 district maps were created.

I applaud your efforts and hard work to complete the re-districting process. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,



Kevin Teague

March 7, 2020 Community of Interest Worksheet

From: noreply@civicplus.com
 Subject: Online Form Submittal: Community of Interest Worksheet
 Date: March 7, 2020 at 4:48 PM
 To: [REDACTED]

Community of Interest Worksheet

Name: Kevin Teague

Are you a resident of Napa? Yes

Email Address: [REDACTED]

1) What is the nature of the common social or economic interest of your community? You can describe what the common interests of your community are and why or how they are important.

Our community was primarily built before the 1950s with some pockets of newer homes. It was built as a blue-collar neighborhood. We are a diverse community with original home owners in their 90s to young families, we have retirees, wine industry executives, hospitality workers, teachers, tradespersons, lawyers, government workers, doctors and farm workers -- diversity. We are walkable from the Yacht Club/Riverpark to Lincoln or even Trancas. We are impacted by the floodplain and flooding. We surround downtown.

2) Where is your community located? You can define it by neighborhood, streets, address, proximity to a key landmark (such as a school or community center), or other boundaries.

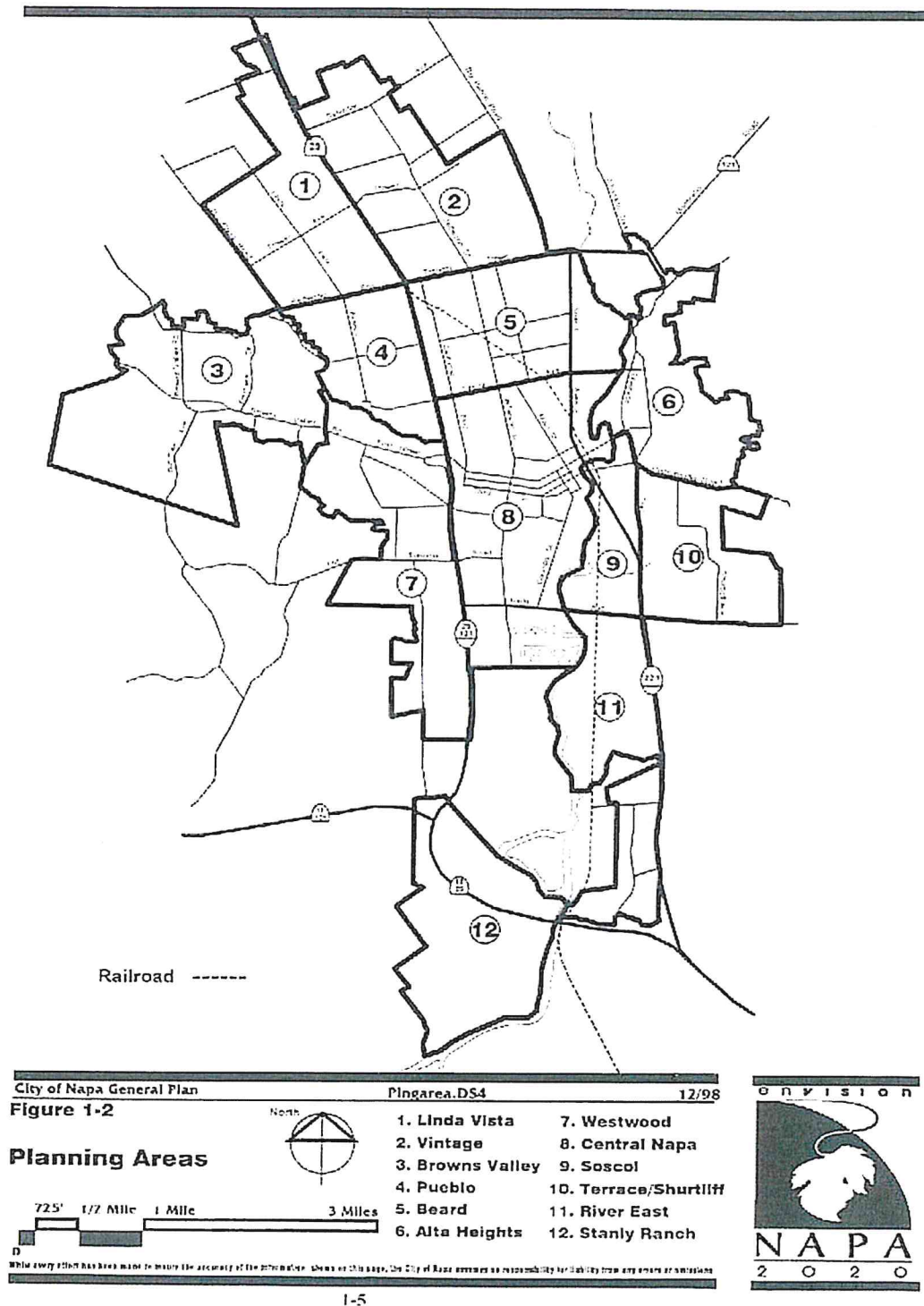
I live in old, central Napa. It is easily definable by the Napa River on the east. It starts at the Yacht Club/Riverpark and spans north between the River and the Highway up through downtown all the way to Lincoln or even Trancas. It includes downtown, river park, the tree streets, fuller park, Abajo, the alphabet streets, Jefferson south of Lincoln, Napa High School and up to Van Windens.

3) What are the geographic definers/boundaries of your neighborhood? Examples of definers/boundaries could be highways, roads, rivers, hills, or parks.

See above. It is Highway 29 on the west, the Yacht Club/City limits to the South, the River on the east up to Third Street (the end of the navigable portion), then Soscol up to Lincoln then up Jefferson to Pueblo or Trancas. Note that the neighborhoods on either side of the River do not connect in a pedestrian or bike friendly way until Third Street. The Imola Bridge is not a neighborhood connector. I have tried walking it -- it is not pedestrian friendly or provide a community connection. .

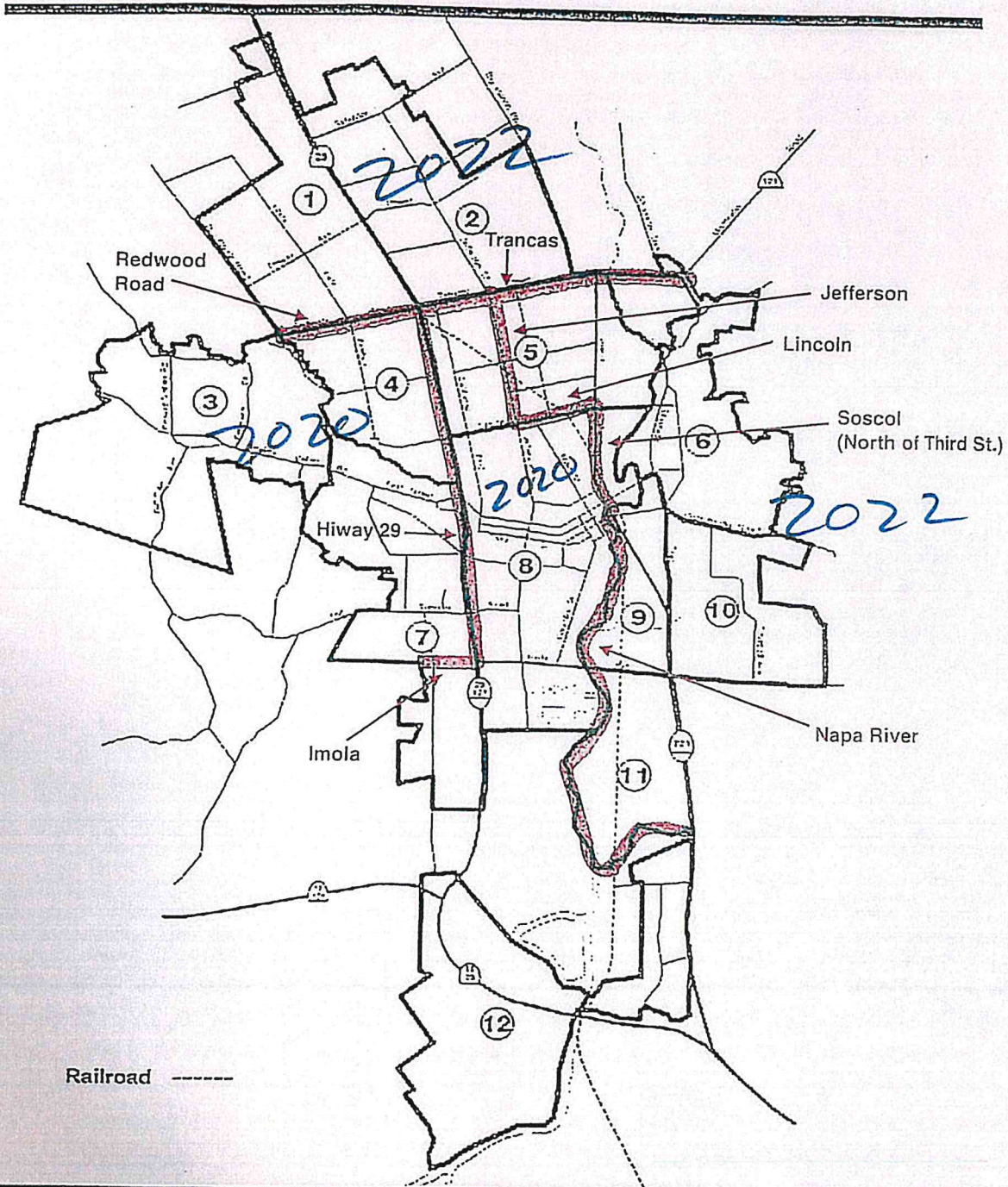
4) What is the rationale for your community of interest to be used in this districting? Please describe how the issues before the City Council have a unique impact on your group.

Keeping the City connected around the central core that is walkable and bikable. The blue color roots and flood plain give a common character to the entire area. It is also a built-out and mature neighborhood, which may distinguish it from others. The eclectic mix of diversity house to house rather than neighborhood to neighborhood makes us one central community.



March 8, 2020 Community Workshop Submission

Kevin Teague
OWN Town Resident.



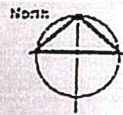
City of Napa General Plan

Pingarea.DS4

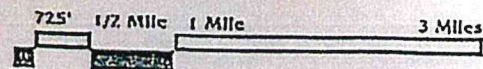
12/98

Figure 1-2

Planning Areas



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Linda Vista | 7. Westwood |
| 2. Vintage | 8. Central Napa |
| 3. Browns Valley | 9. Soscol |
| 4. Pueblo | 10. Terrace/Shurtliff |
| 5. Beard | 11. River East |
| 6. Alta Heights | 12. Stanly Ranch |

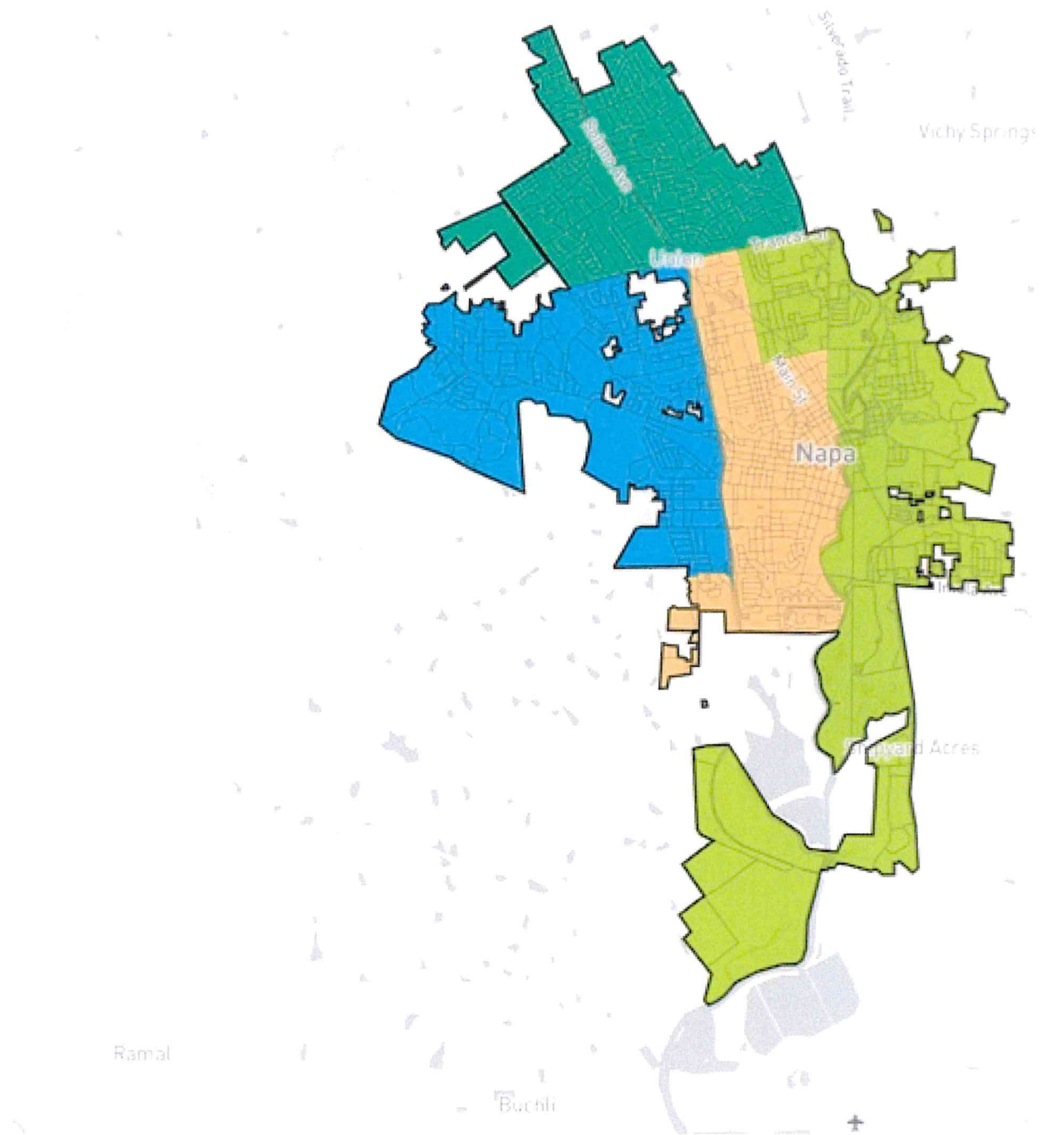


While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information shown on this page, the City of Napa assumes no responsibility for liability from any errors or omissions.



March 9, 2020 "Districtr" Map

District



March 14, 2020 Letter

Kevin Teague
1455 First Street, Suite 217
Napa CA 94559

March 14, 2020

Mayor Techel and Napa City Council
City Hall
955 School Street
Napa, CA 94559
Sent via email

RE: CITY OF NAPA DISTRICTING/PROPOSED MAPS

Dear Mayor Techel and Council,

I am writing to you about the district elections process and the proposed maps A, B, C, and D recently published on the City of Napa website. As explained below, I support Map A because of all the maps it balances population, it has the best geographically contiguous boundaries, it does not divide the geographical integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest, the boundaries are easily identifiable and understandable, and they are compact.

As you know, I have attended and have provided testimony at every City Council meeting on the districting topic. I also attended the community workshop, I submitted a community of interest worksheet on March 7 (attached) and submitted a 'districtr' map on March 9 consistent with my worksheet, which is basically the same as Map A.

GENERAL PLAN NEIGHBORHOODS

At both hearings I discussed the importance of looking at the Vision 2020 City of Napa General Plan neighborhood planning map for guidance on defining communities of interest. I was disappointed to see Zillow and precinct maps continued to be used as the base maps without also access to or mention of the General Plan maps. These official maps are useful and informative. (See attached.) Map A utilizes these maps.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD(S) – CENTRAL NAPA

My focus has been on my neighborhood. Below I summarize some of my testimony because most of the maps published do not address that are part of the public record.

I live in what I have known as the "tree streets" since I was a kid back in the 1970s. Other names include Abajo, Old Town, Central Napa, Downtown, South/Central, etc. It is the part of our city centered around downtown located between Highway 29 and the Napa River. The tree streets are in that area south of downtown bounded by Oak and Spruce Streets.

The following describes the key characteristics of the Central Napa district:

Napa River/East: In my neighborhood the significance of the Napa River, especially navigable portion of the River, cannot be overstated. This is the section of Napa River south of the Third Street Bridge through the southern boundaries of the City. Here, the River is the most significant physical barrier in all of Napa. The Imola Bridge is not a neighborhood connector. It feels more like a freeway. What this means is that the west side of the River is disconnected from the east side of town, from Riverpark/Yacht Club north to downtown.

Riverpark, South Minahen/South: My neighborhood extends into the entire Riverpark area as it has that same river barrier. My friends and family that live in the Riverpark area frequently walk or bike into downtown and in and around the tree streets too. When Vallergas was in Riverpark, it was our everyday store. My son walked to friends' houses off of South Minahen. I walk my dog to Sweeney's sporting goods and Mo's Hotdogs all the time.

Highway 29/ West and North: On the west side of downtown, Highway 29 presents a similar barrier but with a few more connection points. North of downtown, the neighborhoods are similar to south of downtown. They are similar in neighborhood age, diversity of residents, style of homes, walkability in and around downtown, blue collar roots, proximity to downtown, and have the most old urban feel in town. This area stretches across Lincoln to Pueblo Trancas and includes Napa High School and Van Winden's.

Population Balance/ Lincoln, Jefferson and Soscol: The logical lines to balance population are in the northeast side of Central Napa. Lincoln and Jefferson Streets provide logical, identifiable and easy to understand boundaries on the North side. The area west of Jefferson north of Lincoln to Trancas share similar characteristics of the Central Napa area discussed above. On the East side, the boundary should be Soscol up to Lincoln west of the River rather than the River. When you consider the areas around Beard, Nob Hill, eastern Pueblo and Stonehouse, they share many characteristics with the East side of Napa. Accordingly, a boundary in this area does not divide a community of interest, does not change the integrity neighborhoods and follows the most understandable and identifiable streets.

Flooding and Floodplain: Most importantly, what socially, economically and geographically connects all of the Central Napa area neighborhoods is the floodplain, flooding and the Napa flood project. With the Napa River and Napa Creek, we share the same flood impacts, flood insurance, building restrictions, and a community that comes together during a flood event, which for me goes back to sandbagging in downtown in 1986. All of these items with their very distinct geographic features, barriers and significant identifiable streets lead us to logical, efficient and non-divisive community boundaries.

These boundaries demonstrate that it is geographically contiguous; that the geographical integrity of neighborhoods and that communities of interest are not divided; that the boundaries are easily identifiable and understandable; that they are compact; and that they are not drawn for political or racial purposes.

I spoke to these issues at the various hearings. This evidence was not contradicted by any testimony whatsoever, other than the testimony from members of the Plaintiff group which questioned why I would include the area east of Coombs Street in the tree streets as part of our Central Napa area. This was the only question even though that area is physically disconnected from the rest of the City by the River, it shares all the same community characteristics, issues and benefits, and looks and feels the same as the area across Coombs Street. The only thing discussed that distinguishes that side of Coombs Street from the side I live on is the slightly higher Hispanic population shown on the demographic maps. I did not see that as a reason to not be considered as the same community (personally, I enjoy my relationship with my Hispanic next-door neighbors, literally).

There was no evidence presented contrary to the boundary evidence discussed above. Nor was there any evidence that substantiated any other boundaries under the districting criteria than the points I raised and that are shown in Map A. This is because it makes sense.

OTHER MAPS DO NOT ACHIEVE THE MAPPING CRITERIA

Map B. Map B draws a line in the middle of the tree streets and puts my home in the neighborhood on the other side of the River. It divides my Old Town neighborhood down Ash Street, even though that is smack dab in the middle of the 1930s Devita homes. Yet, it comes down Franklin to my street and picks up two blocks east of me. My neighbors on Ash and the streets north, with whom we walk dogs nearly every day together, meet at Shearer School and regularly get together at Tannery Bend, absolutely share the same neighborhood, community and interests. If you need to experience this yourself, I invite you to my house so you can walk the neighborhood with me and see what is obvious. Slicing downtown in the middle of the tree streets, in the middle of the of Devita homes and putting us on the other side of the river outside of our community of interest makes no sense. Map B has areas separated by water, divides a community of interest, does not preserve the integrity of the downtown neighborhoods and does not follow the most understandable and identifiable natural and artificial barriers.

Map C. Map C does a pretty good job with the area around my house, however it disconnects the north side of downtown from the south side. Those areas are functionally, socially, geographically and logically connected to each other for the reasons mentioned above. The neighborhoods that are part of and connected to downtown are far more in the same community of interest than neighborhoods to the far east side across the River, Soscol and Silverado Trail. Map C also gets the barrier of Highway 29 wrong. Highway 29 is a much bigger physical and psychological barrier south of Trancas than it is north of Trancas. Map C got that backwards. Map C divides my community of interest, does not

Districting Letter
March 14, 2020
Page 4 of 4

preserve the integrity of the downtown neighborhoods and does not follow the most understandable and identifiable natural and artificial barriers.

Map D. Map D shares many of the same issues as Map B described above and more. The River is the is the dividing line, not pockets around Coombs Street. It severs the tree streets not only at Coombs, it notches into Franklin Street at the historic redwoods and grabs Randolph Street then notches back. Why? I walk that section of Franklin and Randolph nearly every day on my way to work downtown and when walking my dog after work. Now that is not part of my neighborhood? Again, please come walk my neighborhood with me. The gerrymandering west of Highway 29 is inconsistent with the General Plan neighborhoods, logical boundaries, geographic barriers and connected communities. For the reasons explained above, contrary to Map D, my neighborhood is far more connected geographically, socially and physically to Riverpark than the West Pueblo area (which I know first-hand since it is where I grew up). Map D boundaries divides several communities of interest, does not preserve the integrity of neighborhoods and does not follow the most understandable and identifiable natural and artificial barriers.


CONCLUSION: MAP "A" BEST MEETS THE MAPPING CRITERIA AND IS BEST FOR NAPA

Mapping is not a popularity contest under the districting criteria. Given the population breakdown, the legal criteria, the testimony presented at the prior City meetings and hearings, the map drawing at the workshops and practical everyday experience in Napa, Map A is the only logical map and it should be selected as the first map for the City of Napa. It is easily understandable as long as you know where Highway 29, the River, Soscol, Lincoln, Jefferson and Trancas/Redwood are located. I think everyone in Napa will understand these simple logical boundaries.

For these reasons Map A is the best and only map that correctly meets all of the required criteria in the proper order.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin Teague

From: [Napa County Progressive Alliance](#)
To: [Redistricting](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment for Public Hearing on Redistricting on Dec. 14, 2021, Item 3A
Date: Monday, December 13, 2021 11:48:54 PM
Attachments: [Rafferty re Integration of WPLV Island.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from napacountyprogressivealliance@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Napa City Council (and City-hired demographer):

At the first public hearing, Napa County Progressive Alliance Steering Committee member, Larry Alexander, submitted public comment on the West Pueblo/Linda Vista county island where he lives. He explained how this island represents a community of interest bound together by race, being a majority Latinx, socio-economic status, being primarily working class, a concern regarding inadequate and aging infrastructure, and a history of being excluded from the civic life of the city. He stated that he believes this community has more in common with the central district, District 4 directly to the east, than District 2, dominated by Browns Valley, which currently surrounds it. His observations are corroborated by data we submitted in 2020, as well as by the map the city's demographer, Paul Mitchell, submitted that joined this island with the central district in draft map Plan D to create the highest Latinx citizen voting age population district of the final four maps he presented to the Council.

The city attorney stated that the City will be annexing these county islands but not until after redistricting. He stated that while council members cannot count the population of this island during redistricting, they could be forward thinking and consider how annexation of this island and its 1,400 residents would affect the districts and make decisions accordingly.

The only draft map being presented at tomorrow's hearing is the current district map, which does not address the issues surrounding the incorporation of this large island into a future district, issues we brought up last year when the map was adopted.

We have resubmitted a letter written by our attorney Scott Rafferty dated April 26, 2020. In it he explained that unless the City passes an ordinance, the island would automatically go into District 2, creating a population variance of more than 13.3% based on 2010 census data, a variance that would likely be even higher now using 2020 census data. He proposed a solution that would respect the future desires of the island residents, suggesting that the city lands just east of the island be joined with the central district so that upon annexation the island could stay in District 2 or join with District 4 or be split at Carol Drive with the western half staying in District 2 and the eastern half joining with District 4. [We submitted that map using DistrictR. https://bit.ly/3pX3Vj4](#)

While we, again, urge you annex this island now, so the population can be counted, and it can be incorporated now into a district, at the very least you can demonstrate good faith and a respect for the desires of these future city residents by attaching it to both districts; that way, without having to pass a resolution, it could join to either district or be split between them. This solution would help equalize the population between districts 2 and 4, guarantee flexibility in incorporating the island into a district upon annexation, and ensure island residents have the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way in the decision.

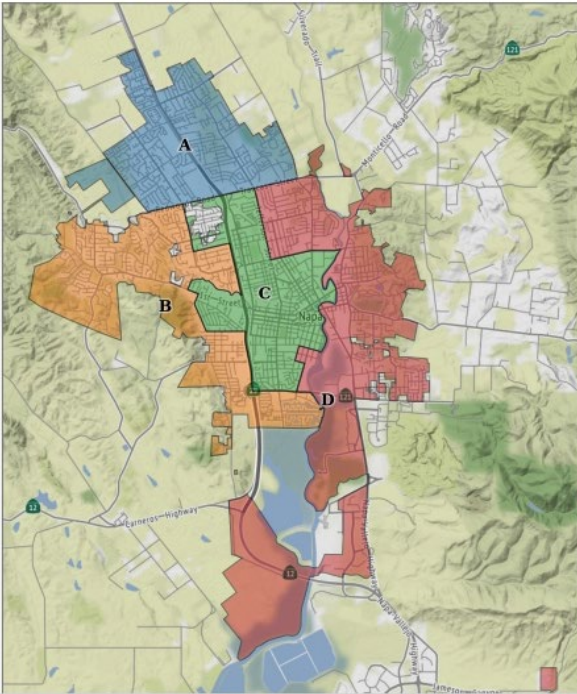
If you are unwilling to address the West Pueblo/Linda Vista island issue now when it is timely and convenient, it is unlikely that you will do it in the future.

Sincerely,
Amy Martenson
Napa County Progressive Alliance, Chair

P.S. Attached is Larry Alexander's recent letter to the editor, "Don't Wait to Annex the Largest Island."
https://napavalleyregister.com/opinion/letters/dont-wait-to-annex-the-largest-island/article_f0d62eb5-4bf0-564a-879e-0010c2a45b28.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Plan D

District Overview



Base 2010 Census

| | A | B | C | D |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Population | 19,340 | 18,493 | 19,321 | 19,755 |
| Deviation | 115 | -732 | 96 | 530 |
| Deviation % | 0.6% | -3.8% | 0.5% | 2.8% |
| No Eth | 13,255 | 12,459 | 9,232 | 10,806 |
| No Eth % | 68.5% | 67.4% | 47.8% | 54.7% |
| Latino | 5,449 | 5,491 | 9,711 | 8,265 |
| Latino % | 28.2% | 29.7% | 50.3% | 41.8% |
| Asian | 528 | 433 | 252 | 542 |
| Asian % | 2.7% | 2.3% | 1.3% | 2.7% |
| Black | 108 | 110 | 126 | 142 |
| Black % | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.7% | 0.7% |

Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

| | A | B | C | D |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total US 18+ | 13,891 | 12,410 | 11,361 | 13,477 |
| No Eth CVAP | 9,977 | 10,157 | 7,456 | 9,101 |
| No Eth CVAP % | 71.8% | 81.8% | 65.6% | 67.5% |
| Latino CVAP | 3,313 | 1,927 | 3,627 | 3,719 |
| Latino CVAP % | 23.8% | 15.5% | 31.9% | 27.6% |
| Asian CVAP | 572 | 248 | 130 | 486 |
| Asian CVAP % | 4.1% | 2.0% | 1.1% | 3.6% |
| Black CVAP | 29 | 78 | 148 | 171 |

SCOTT J. RAFFERTY

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1913 WHITECLIFF COURT
WALNUT CREEK CA 94596

(202)-380-5525
RAFFERTY@GMAIL.COM

April 26, 2020

Ms. Tiffany Carranza

Clerk

City of Napa

via electronic mail

Dear Ms. Carranza:

My client and I hope to write separately, before or after tomorrow's meeting, to reflect on the successes and accomplishments of this proceeding, the first to comply with the FAIR MAPS Act. You, the council, and the staff have set a model that every city in the state is well-advised to consider when they redistrict next year. I know that, in your case, it was a lot of hard work.

We have a continuing concern for the integration of the islands, especially West Pueblo/Linda Vista, into the city upon their annexation. As added effective January 1, 2020, Section 21623(a) requires a city to add new territory "to the nearest existing council district without changing the boundaries of the other council district boundaries [sic]." Map A places the entire West Pueblo Island inside District B (Brown's Valley). We question whether this is appropriate, especially since it will cause a population variance of more than 13.3%. Our view is less important than the desires of the residents at the time they join the city. Therefore, we propose two alternative interim approaches for the Council and its demographer to consider.

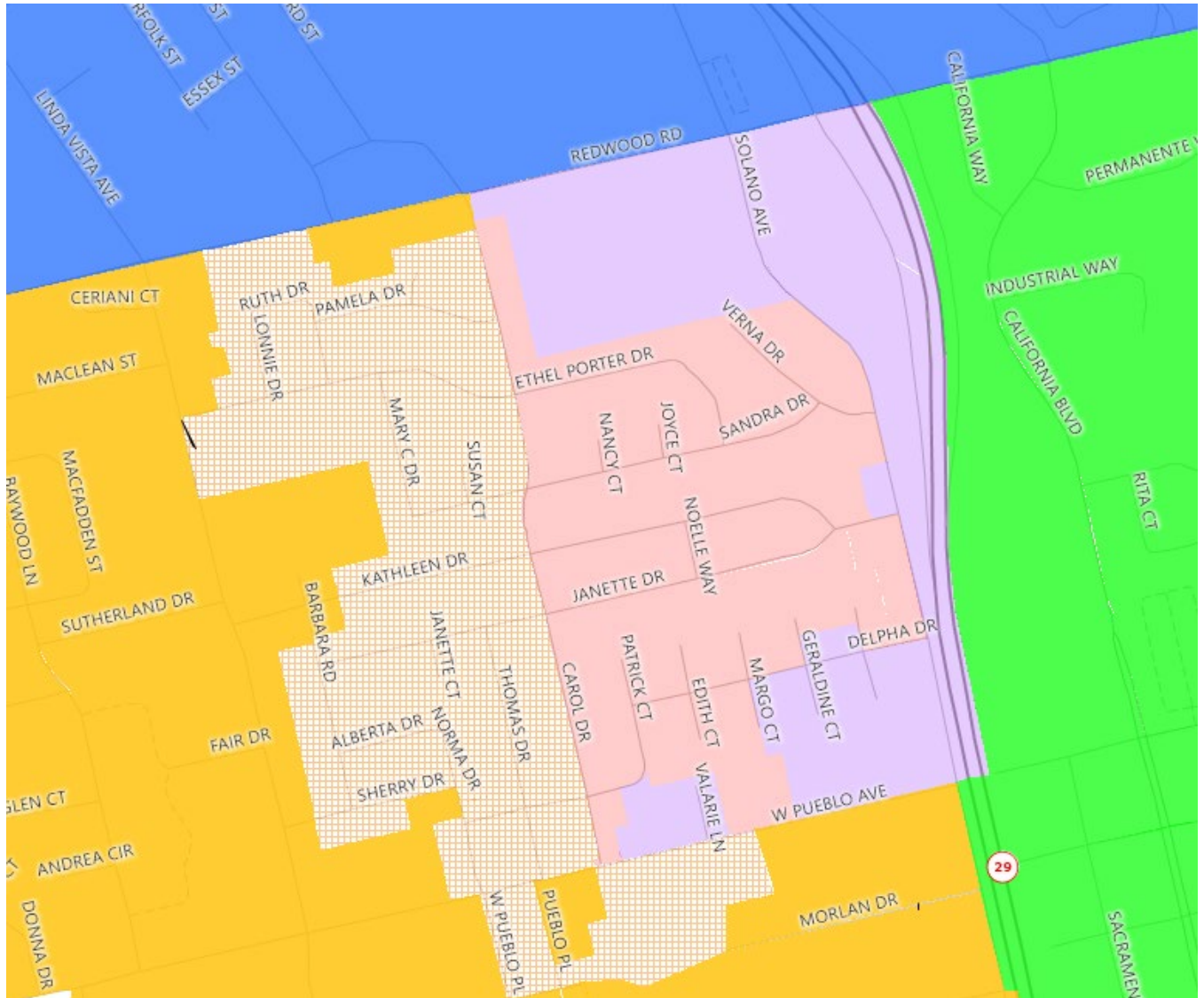
- (1) Move these eight census blocks southwest of the intersection of Redwood Road and St. Helena Highway from District B to District C (purple).

This involves the motels and retail along Solano Avenue and a population of 253 (only 132 of whom are adult citizens). With this small change, the West Pueblo Island adjoins both B and C, and can therefore be attached to either. Any movement of population out of B mitigates the excess variance. After annexation, one possibility would be to attach the twelve blocks east of Carol Drive to district C. The blocks have an additional population of 1,065 (pink). This would reduce the population variance to 8.4%.

The combined pink and purple areas correspond to a block group that will (after annexation) have the lowest per capita income in the City of Napa (\$20,467). Sixteen percent of the population over 5 speaks Spanish, but does not speak English well.

Rafferty to Carranza, April 26, 2020, page 2

Twelve percent lives in poverty. Eight percent are not citizens. Forty-five percent of eligible voters are Latino. We believe that the Island, or at least its eastern half, has more in common with district C than district B, but the Council should give the opinions of the City's new residents greater weight.



Blue – District A

Orange – District B

Green – District C

Purple, Pink and Crosshatch Orange – Island

Rafferty to Carranza, April 26, 2020, page 3

- (2) Amend the ordinance to govern how annexations are added to existing districts.

New Section 21623(c) allow charter cities to adopt by ordinance “a different standard for adding new territory to existing council districts.” Conceivably, this could provide additional flexibility in the case of West Pueblo and other future annexations. I defer to Mr. Barrett on whether such an ordinance is appropriate, and what standard it might establish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Rafferty". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott J. Rafferty

From: [Napa County Progressive Alliance](#)
To: [Redistricting](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment on Special Meeting on Redistricting, Item 3A, January 25, 2022
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 5:28:07 PM

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[EXTERNAL]

Napa City Council:

The Napa County Progressive Alliance is again providing written comment on an ongoing concern: the City's decision to wait to annex the largest county island, the West Pueblo/Linda Vista county island, until after redistricting has been completed and its refusal to attach the eight precincts east of the island to the central district, District 4, so that upon annexation the island could go into District 4 or be split between District 2 and District 4 without the Council needing to pass a resolution for that to occur.

As was written in our letter to the editor printed on January 17th entitled Voter Discrimination in Napa?, we suspect that the reason the Council wants to wait to annex this island until after redistricting is because annexing the island now would put District 2 over the 10% ideal population allowed by the FAIR MAPS Act, necessitating a change to the current map. In addition, without attaching those eight precincts to District 4, unless the Council passes a resolution, the island would automatically go into District 2 once annexed. Both of these actions would have the effect of diluting the vote of working class and Latinx voters, which is unacceptable.

District 2 has the lowest Latino Citizen Voting Age Population of the four districts. District 4 has the highest. Placing island residents, who are working class and a majority Latinx, into District 2 would dilute their vote and make it impossible for them to elect their candidate of choice. Furthermore, adding that population to District 2, overpopulating it, would give District 2 more voting power than District 4.

While the two board members who represent these districts were only concerned about what is legal, both should be concerned about what is right and the spirit of the law, not just the letter of the law. Furthermore, why isn't District 4 representative Narvaez advocating for his district generally and for the Latinx community specifically by insisting that his district has equal population and that decisions made increase, and do not dilute, the voting power of the Latinx community?

If the Council continues in the direction it is going, which we suspect it will, it will violate the spirit of the FAIR MAPS Act in terms of the top three mapping criteria. 1) Equal population: The Council should not plan for District 2 to be over the 10% ideal population allowed by the FAIR Maps Act, whether it is legal or not. 2) Contiguity: With this large county island in the middle of a district, the district is not contiguous. 3) Respect for communities of interest: The island residents share little in common in terms of social and economic interests with Browns Valley-dominated District 2 and share more in common with voters in District 4; they should be joined together for fair representation.

Shame on the members of the Council for their continued refusal to recognize the voting rights of island residents who have experienced decades of historical discrimination, including redlining, disenfranchisement, and paying more in taxes and fees to get less, all of which we laid out in the video we made back in 2020, which we are including again here. At this point, Council members' actions appear to be a deliberate attempt to suppress the working class and Latinx vote to maintain the status

quo and their own power as part of Napa's political establishment. We are documenting it for posterity.

Sincerely,
Napa County Progressive Alliance Steering Committee

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