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**Subject:** FW: Letter of Support for: Board of Supervisors and Fresno County Advisory Commission Members  
**Attachments:** LEIR letter of Support for DHF Equity Map (5) (3).docx

**From:** V Gaona <[vgaona@education-leadership.org](mailto:vgaona@education-leadership.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 10:45 AM  
**To:** Thompson, John R. <[jthompson@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:jthompson@fresnocountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for: Board of Supervisors and Fresno County Advisory Commission Members

**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

**TO: Mr. John R. Thompson:**  
**Assistant Director**

**Department of Public Works and Planning |**

**Please provide a copy of the Latino Educational issues Roundtable organization's letter being sent to each of the following entities' members:**

- 1. The Board of Supervisor.**
- 2. The members of the Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission.**

**Thank you for your assistance on the telephone and in the delivery of the emailed letter.**

**Respectfully,**

**Venancio G. Gaona**

**P. S. Mr. Thompson, please email me that you have the attached letter as well!**



# **Latino Educational Issues Roundtable**

**September 27,2021**

**TO: Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
& Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission**

**RE: Latino Educational Issues Roundtable Support  
for the Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map**

**My name is Venancio G. Gaona, chair of the Latino Educational Issues Roundtable (LEIR) organization. The Latino Educational Issues Roundtable organization is an advocate for the advancement of the socio-economic and educational programs and services for the Chicano/Latino residents in the County of Fresno. The LEIR advocacy is conducted before federal, state, municipal, and county agencies and offices.**

**The LEIR organization has carefully studied the map developed and proposed by the Equity Map Coalition for Supervisorial district boundaries. We are in full support. The proposed districts are compact and easily understandable.**

**We have also reviewed the U.S. Census data, which confirms the significant demographic changes that have transformed the County of Fresno. The Chicano/Latino population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, yet the opportunity for disadvantaged communities of interest to elect candidates of their choice for supervisorial seats has not kept pace.**

**The proposed supervisorial redistricting map complies with our review of all mandated federal and state laws, especially the California Fair Maps Act (A.B. 849) passed in 2019 to standardize the local redistricting process, to ensure fairness and prohibit gerrymandering.**

**We particularly support the grouping of communities of interest and the division between the rural areas of the Eastside and the Westside of the County, at Highway 41. There is a significant difference between the two mentioned areas. Each deserves to have its own supervisorial representative. The proposed map by EMC attempts to keep the whole Westside together for the first time, including all the area served by West Hills College, Westlands Water District, and Fresno County Rural Transit's Westside routes.**

**We believe incorporating Southeast Fresno with the rural towns in District 4 makes sense, as residents are bound together by work, family, ethnicity, income levels, language, and face the similar socio-economic challenges and living conditions.**

2.


**We also strongly support the concept of the City of Clovis having its own Supervisor, along with the new growth, foothill, and mountain areas. Furthermore, we especially support Willow Avenue as the border between not only the City of Fresno and the City of Clovis, but also between District 2 and District 5, respectively.**

**Conclusion: The Equitable Map Coalition map proposal is fair, research-based, meets all federal and state legal requirements, and provides a democratic opportunity for fair representation for a significant underrepresented numbers of citizens with the right to vote.**

**Respectfully,**

**Venancio G. Gaona, Chair  
Latino Educational Issues Roundtable  
5209 E. Hamilton Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727  
559---367-8554  
[vaona@education-leadership.org](mailto:vaona@education-leadership.org)**

A16  
10/5/2021



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**From:** Marianne Kast <fourkasts@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 9:34 PM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS; Fresno County 2021 Redistricting  
**Subject:** 2021 Redistricting  
**Attachments:** rBOS\_ARC\_9\_30\_21.pdf



September 30, 2021

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission  
2282 Tulare Street, Third floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

Sent via email

Cc: John Thompson

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and Members of the Advisory Redistricting Commission,

Redistricting, the drawing of new district boundaries, fosters fair and effective representation for all residents. How those districts are drawn will impact our lives for the next ten years.

Most Fresno County Supervisors have stated on the record that they want to keep the existing supervisorial districts largely the same, with only minor changes to balance population. This approach is not only a mistake; it is likely illegal. It sends a signal to County residents that the County Supervisors have predetermined this process before giving the public an opportunity to participate. This disregards the dramatic demographic changes that have occurred over the last few decades.

This approach is also contrary to law. This time, the Board cannot simply balance the population of existing districts (One Person, One Vote) and comply with the Voting Rights Act. The Fair Maps Act creates a new set of mandatory criteria that must guide the drawing of district lines. Keeping the core of existing Supervisor Districts intact is not one of the ranked criteria.

A different legal standard was in effect the last time the Board went through redistricting and adopted the 2011 District Map, and County Supervisors were permitted to consider or ignore traditional redistricting principles. But, a new supervisorial map in 2021 that is largely the same as the 2011 map (which is largely the same as the 2001) map would likely violate state law.

To ensure fair representation in Fresno County, the Advisory Commission and the Board of Supervisors must start with a blank slate. Public testimony must be heard and considered, and a

map drawn that gathers together communities of interest with similar values, backgrounds, and characteristics. This is required by the California Fair Maps Act.

We ask that you approach this process with the intent of the law, that every resident of Fresno County be equally and fairly represented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Kast". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marianne Kast, President

**From:** [fresnocountyca@enotify.visioninternet.com](mailto:fresnocountyca@enotify.visioninternet.com)  
**To:** [Dawson, Troy](#); [Tataryan, David](#); [Thompson, John R.](#); [Eropkin, Rebekah](#)  
**Subject:** County of Fresno: Redistricting Comment Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 12:14:19 PM

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A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

**Form Name:** Submit Redistricting Comment  
**Date & Time:** 09/29/2021 12:13 PM  
**Response #:** 13  
**Submitter ID:** 29078  
**IP address:** 69.132.53.69  
**Time to complete:** 31 min. , 25 sec.

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**Survey Details**

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Page 1

**To submit written comments residents may:**

- 1.) complete the on-line form below
- 2.) mail comments to: County CAO's Office, Redistricting 2021 - 2281 Tulare Street, Room 304, Fresno, CA 93721
- 3.) hand delivery to: County CAO's Office at 2281 Tulare Street, Room 304, Fresno, CA 93721
- 4.) email comments to: [FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov)

**Note: Submitted comments will be part of the public record.**

1. **First Name**  
Kao
2. **Last Name**  
Lao
3. **Agency/Organization (If Applicable)**  
Central Valley United for Power
4. **Email**  
[kaocheng.cvup@gmail.com](mailto:kaocheng.cvup@gmail.com)

**5. Address (Street Number and Name)**

Not answered

**6. City**

Not answered

**7. ZIP Code**

Not answered

**8. Contact Phone #**

7047730683

**9. Supervisorial District**

**(Please refer to [this district lookup tool](#) if necessary)**

Not answered

**If comment is specific to a Commissioner Hearing, please fill in Hearing date and Agenda # (please note comments specific to a hearing date, must be submitted by 5:00 pm one (1) day in advance of the meeting)**

**10. Hearing Date**

09/29/2021

**11. Agenda Item**

Not answered

**12. Comment (please note that all comments received will be part of the public record)**

Hello Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Kao Cheng Lao and I am the Civic Engagement Table Coordinator for Central Valley United for Power (also known as CVUP). I am writing on behalf of CVUP. CVUP is a coalition of eight community based organizations and they are: 99 Rootz/Power California; Californians for Justice; The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment; Community Water Center; Dolores Huerta Foundation; Faith in the Valley; Hmong Innovating Politics; and Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability.

As you redraw the county's district lines, we urge you all to keep the following communities together:

1) The Hmong community that lives in the Sunnyside area. At the moment, the Hmong community who calls the Sunnyside area home is split into three Districts (3, 4, and 5), which also means that their unified voice is being split and we all know that this leads to a lack of adequate representation. We want the Sunnyside Hmong community to be together in one district, preferably District 3.

2) The communities of Lanare and Cantua Creek are both unincorporated communities in the western part of the county, and the two communities face similar issues. Although these two communities are currently divided, with Cantua Creek in District 1 and Lanare in District 4, community members would like to be in the same district, so that they can advocate together on issues that both communities face.



These communities of interests were put together through conversations with local community leaders and Fresno County residents. We ask that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors give our public comment on COIs a serious consideration as propose district maps are drawn.

Sincerely,

The Central Valley United for Power Coalition & its members:

Californians for Justice  
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment  
Community Water Center  
Dolores Huerta Foundation  
Faith in the Valley  
Hmong Innovating Politics  
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability  
Power California- 99Rootz

**13. Attach File**

[Fresno County 09\\_29 Redistricting Workshop.pdf](#)

Thank you,  
**County of Fresno**

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**This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.**

10/5/2021  
AI 6

**From:** [Hatzune Aguilar](#)  
**To:** [Fresno County 2021 Redistricting](#)  
**Cc:** [Pedro Navarro Cruz](#); [Imelda Ramirez](#); [Pablo Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** Fresno Inclusive Families Map  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 6:23:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [Fresno Inclusive Families Map - Justification 9\\_29\\_2021.pdf](#)  
[Fresno Inclusive Families Map Sept 29, 2021.pdf](#)

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**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

To Whom It May Concern,

Please see the attached [Fresno Inclusive Families Map](#) and [Justification](#) on behalf of the Central Labor Council, Communities for a New California Education Fund, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce, Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP), and Jakara Movement (JM).

We are respectfully submitting these as public comment and for the Commission's consideration.

Thank you,  
Hatzune

--

Hatzune Aguilar  
Strategic Engagement Director  
Communities for a New California

[CNCEF Website](#)  
[CNCEF Facebook](#)  
[CNCEF Instagram](#)

## Fresno Inclusive Families Map Justification

The Central Labor Council, Communities for a New California Education Fund, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce, Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP), and Jakara Movement (JM) brought residents together to inform a revised map that would keep communities of interest whole, provide a more accurate balance of representation, and would ensure a smaller percentage of population deviation.

The Fresno Inclusive Families map changes the current North - South divide that currently gives greater advantage to District 2 and District 5. The North Fresno and North Clovis metro area is where the voting propensity is very high and voters do not vote in favor of uplifting working families. These two parts of Clovis and Fresno have more in common with each other than they do really with the rest of the county. District 2 and District 4 on the revised map balances the representation and gives more voice to the working families across the entire county.

*Note: The map submitted was redrawn using Maptitude that accounts for 2020 Census data (PL 94-171 Redistricting Data).*

### **District**

District 1 includes such a large amount of land, because it encompasses so many low density rural areas of the county. This Western region of the county is currently divided by Districts 1 and 4. This map would bring the West part of the county together and would give more voice to residents living in the West and developing part of Fresno. District 1 is consistently an agricultural district. It also uplifts Fresno's most historical black part of town (Southwest) by keeping it together with the rest of Southwest Fresno and West of the 99 together instead of being divided into Districts 1 and 3 as it is currently.

Areas included in this District:

- *Mendota*
- *Firebaugh*
- *San Joaquin*
- *Tranquility*
- *Kerman*
- *Huron*
- *Coalinga*
- *Five Points*
- *Lanare*
- *Riverdale*
- *Raisin City*
- *Caruthers*
- *Biola*
- *City of Fresno COI Neighborhoods with similar interests*
  - *Highway City*

- *Herndon*
- *Central Unified*
- *Southwest Fresno (Westside)*

### *District 2*

The Fresno Inclusive Families Map tells a more complete story of who is moving to Northwest Fresno and how there are complete 180-degree realities between neighborhoods in Northwest Fresno. In a quick [Zillow](#) search of sold homes in Figarden, Fresno, you will notice that some homes recently sold in the neighborhood Southeast of the Bullard & Marks intersection for an average of \$350k but in a bordering neighborhood closer to Van Ness Ave for an average of \$750k. Some even go above \$1 million. For example, families living in the neighborhood Southeast of the Bullard & Marks intersection work hard labor jobs, are more diverse, and overall live a completely different reality from the families more North of them and closer to or on Van Ness Ave.

Van Ness Ave is weirdly just East of Palm Ave, South of Shaw Ave and just East of Marks Ave, North of Shaw Ave. However, the same dichotomy previously mentioned exists South and North of Shaw Ave. This is why District 2 goes narrowly South until it meets the Herndon No. 39 Canal. The difference is most apparent when you drive through the part of Van Ness Ave that is commonly known as 'Christmas Tree Lane,' where it feels completely separated from the rest of the city.

Areas included in this district are:

- Old Figarden
- Figarden
- Woodward Park
- Clovis West High area
- Buchanan High area
- Clovis North High area
- All mountain and foothill communities

### **District**

The Fresno Inclusive Families Map brings rural towns together into District 3 that include Latino communities of interest and are in closer proximity to Highway 99. This is a coalition district in that it includes an intersection of multiple communities of interest such as Latino, Asian, and Black families.

Additionally, a major element of this map is keeping as much of the historic Sunnyside community whole as a community of interest. Sunnyside High School is the largest high school in Fresno Unified and the most diverse in terms of its robust Hispanic/Latinx, Hmong, and Punjabi communities. The Sunnyside area also importantly includes both the Hmong and Punjabi communities, keeping them whole. It is important to understand that this area has become a vibrant and growing area for Hmong and Punjabi families and businesses as well.

District 3 areas include:

- *Orange Cove*
- *Sanger*
- *Parlier*
- *Selma*
- *Fowler*
- *Reedley*
- *Kingsburg*
- *Easton*
- *Laton*
- *Unincorporated Areas of Fresno*
  - *Calwa*
  - *Another note of interest is that in Malaga, students in this region go to Fowler Unified schools. In the current map, they are not in the same district and are unincorporated areas of the County. This revised map brings the communities of interest together.*

#### **District 4**

This district brings together neighborhoods in both Clovis and Fresno that have more in common with each other than the more affluent parts of Clovis and the City of Fresno.

- *City of Fresno Neighborhoods:*
  - *Pinedale*
  - *Central Fresno along the Blackstone corridor and East of Van Ness Ave. Ends south on Dakota*
  - *Mayfair District (County Island)*
  - *Apartments surrounding Fresno State*
  - *The more working class part of the Hoover High area*
  - *County Islands of East Central Fresno that are predominantly working class families of color*
- *Clovis Neighborhoods:*
  - *Tarpey Village*
  - *Clovis High area*

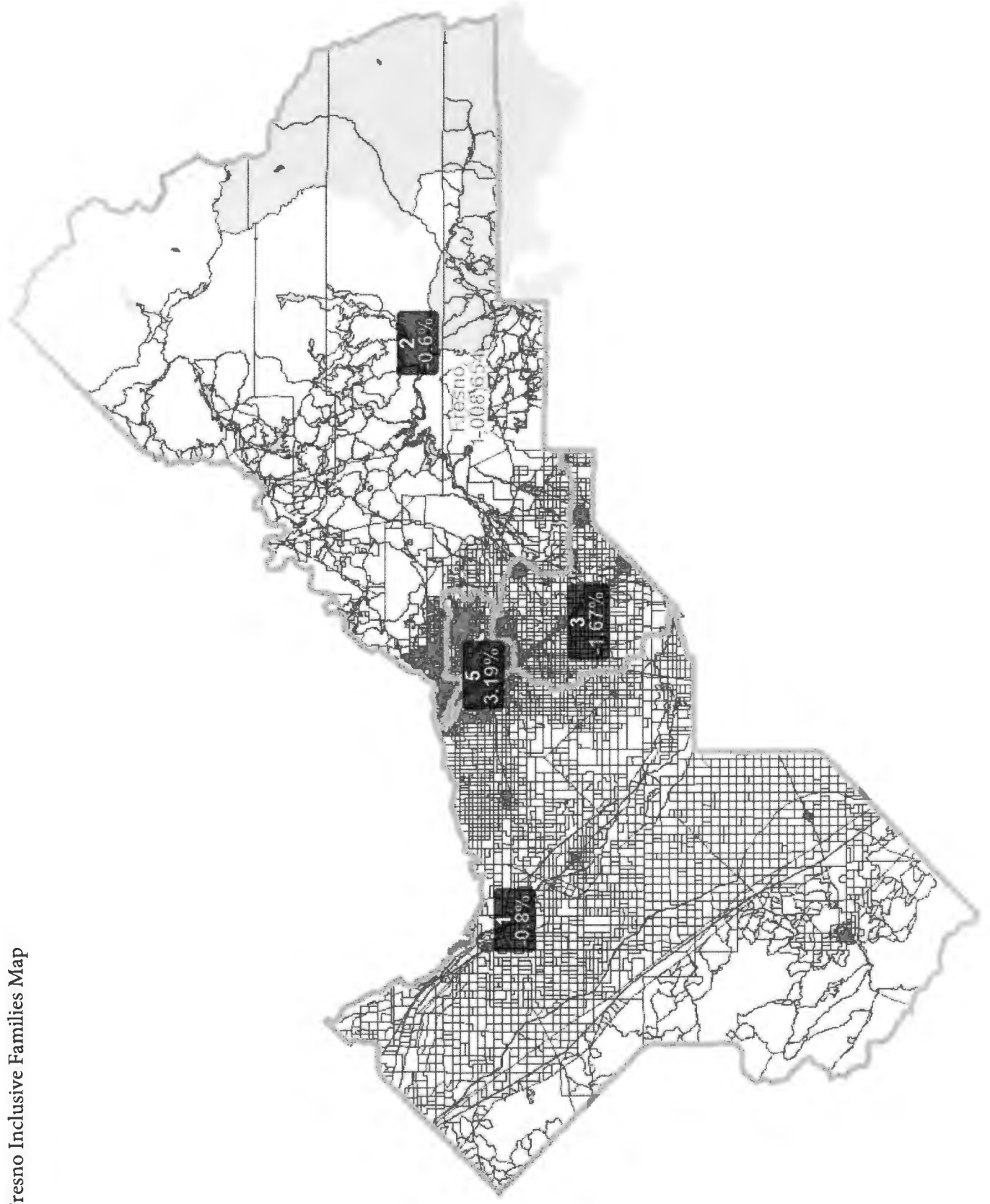
#### **District 5**

In this map, District 5 includes more working families in the Northwestern part of Fresno and extends into the more urban center of the all Fresno district (currently District 3). The Hmong community of interest is included in District 5.

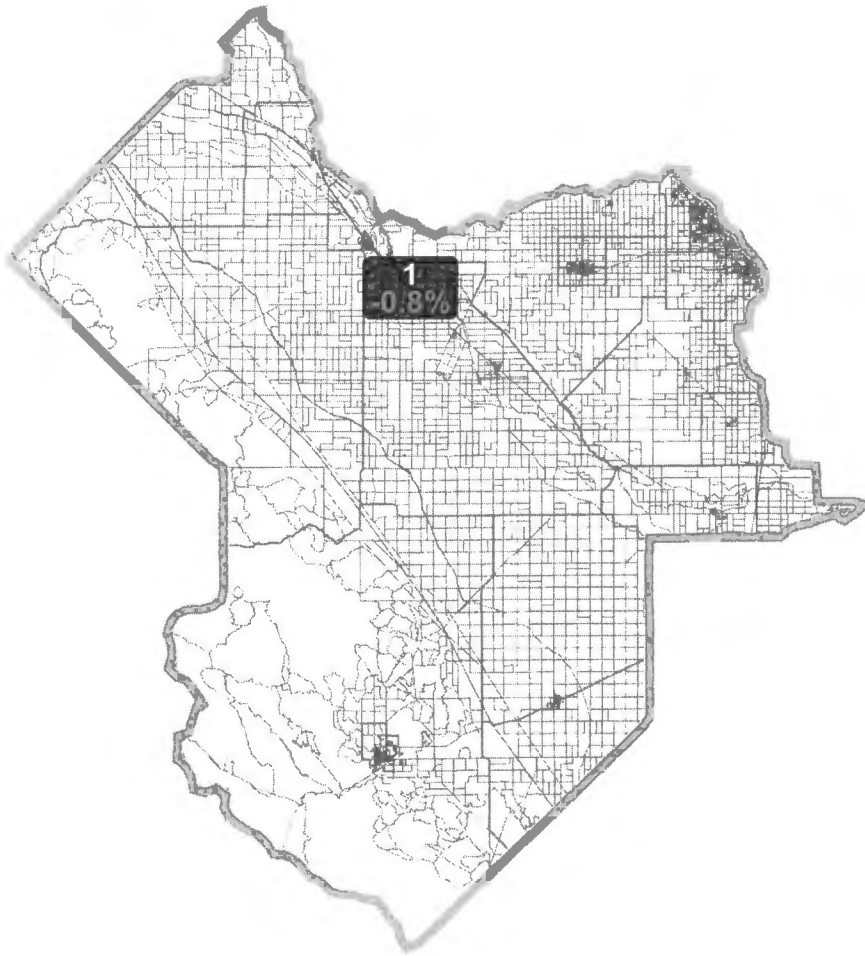
District 5 areas include:

- *Apartments between San Jose Ave and Barstow Ave and Brawley and Valentine.*
- *Lawless Elementary neighborhood*
- *Apartments Southeast of Marty Ave and Bullard Ave*
- *Neighborhood southeast of Bullard and Marks Ave*
- *Keeps Fresno City limits and Southeast Fresno together*

Fresno Inclusive Families Map



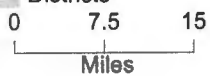
# District: 1



Field	Value
District	1
Population	200110
Deviation	-1,621
% Deviation	-0.8%
18+_Pop	139463
% 18+_Pop	69.69%
US citizens 18+ EST	62172
US citizens 18+ EST	31.07%
Hispanic Origin	135768
% Hispanic Origin	67.85%
H18+_Pop	89510
% H18+_Pop	64.18%
US citizens 18+ EST	33343
US citizens 18+ EST	53.63%
NH_Whit	28766
% NH_Whit	14.38%
NH18+_Whit	23849
% NH18+_Whit	17.1%
NH_Black	11426
% NH_Black	5.71%
NH18+_Black	8311
% NH18+_Black	5.96%
NH_Asn	18440
% NH_Asn	9.21%
NH18+_Asn	13906
% NH18+_Asn	9.97%
US citizens 18+ EST	4936
US citizens 18+ EST	7.94%
NH_Ind	1040
% NH_Ind	0.52%
NH18+_Ind	765
% NH18+_Ind	0.55%
NH_Hwn	174
% NH_Hwn	0.09%
NH18+_Hwn	139
% NH18+_Hwn	0.1%

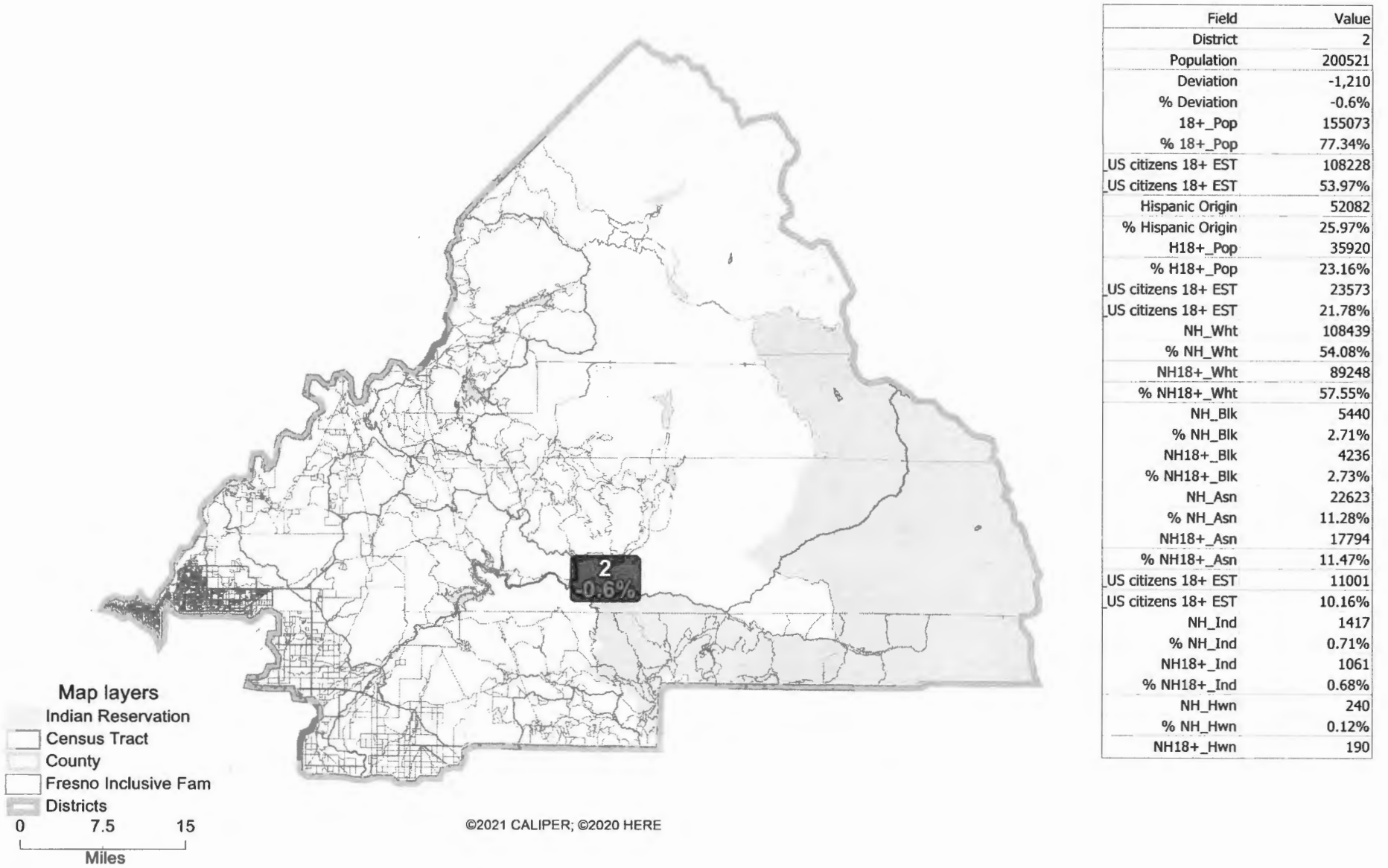
## Map layers

- Indian Reservation
- Census Tract
- County
- Fresno Inclusive Fam
- Districts



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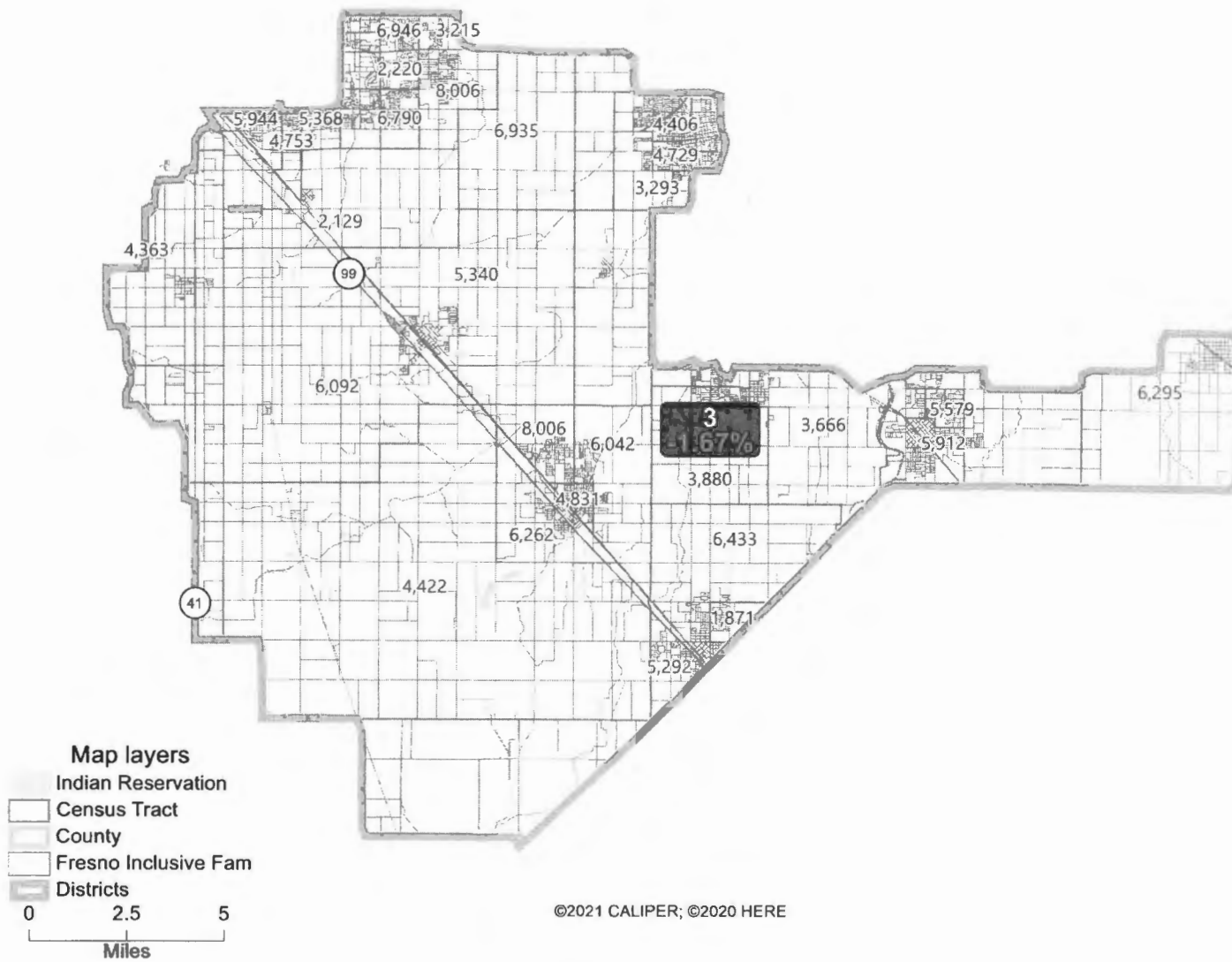
## District: 2



Field	Value
District	2
Population	200521
Deviation	-1,210
% Deviation	-0.6%
18+_Pop	155073
% 18+_Pop	77.34%
US citizens 18+ EST	108228
US citizens 18+ EST	53.97%
Hispanic Origin	52082
% Hispanic Origin	25.97%
H18+_Pop	35920
% H18+_Pop	23.16%
US citizens 18+ EST	23573
US citizens 18+ EST	21.78%
NH_Wht	108439
% NH_Wht	54.08%
NH18+_Wht	89248
% NH18+_Wht	57.55%
NH_Blkl	5440
% NH_Blkl	2.71%
NH18+_Blkl	4236
% NH18+_Blkl	2.73%
NH_Asn	22623
% NH_Asn	11.28%
NH18+_Asn	17794
% NH18+_Asn	11.47%
US citizens 18+ EST	11001
US citizens 18+ EST	10.16%
NH_Ind	1417
% NH_Ind	0.71%
NH18+_Ind	1061
% NH18+_Ind	0.68%
NH_Hwn	240
% NH_Hwn	0.12%
NH18+_Hwn	190

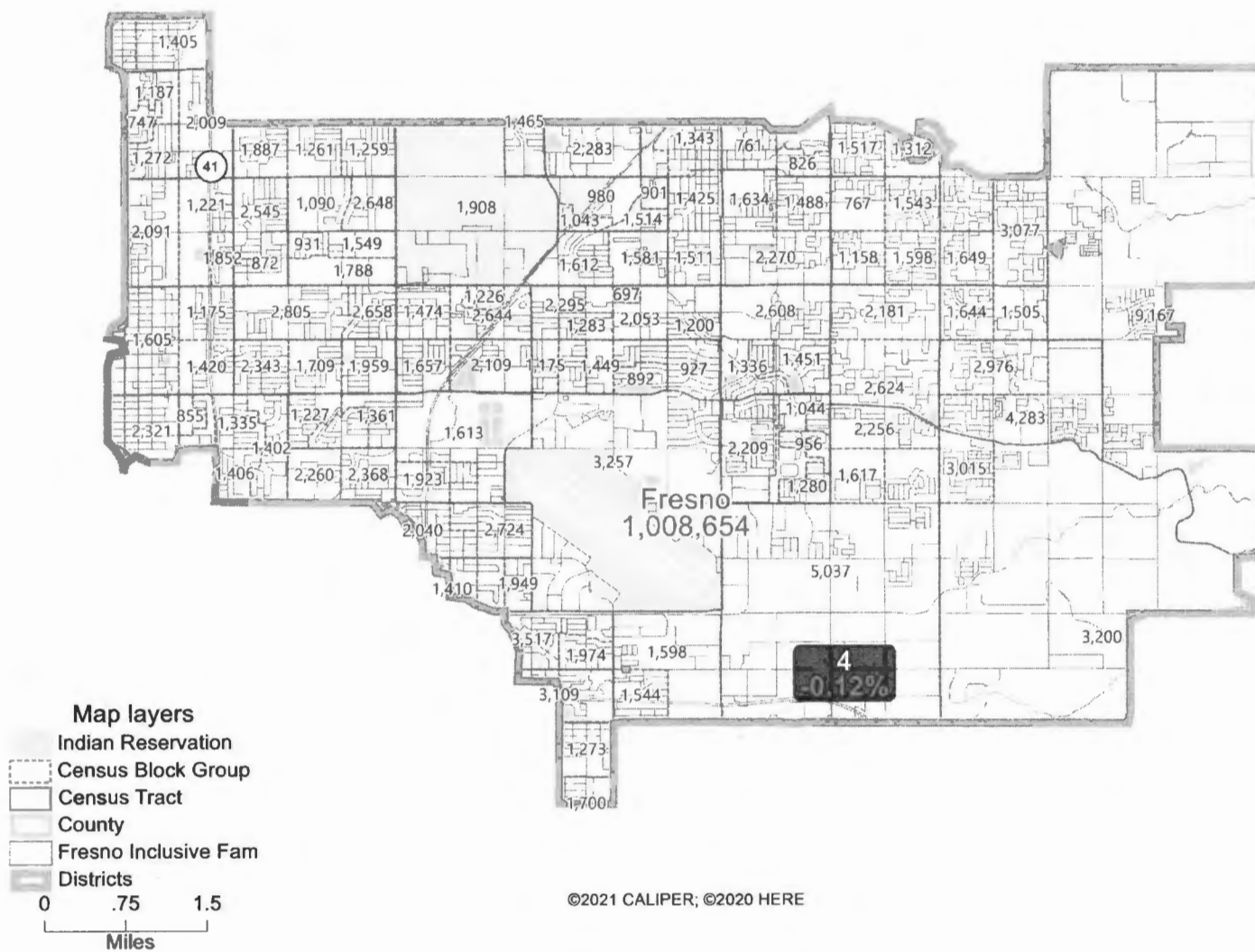


## District: 3



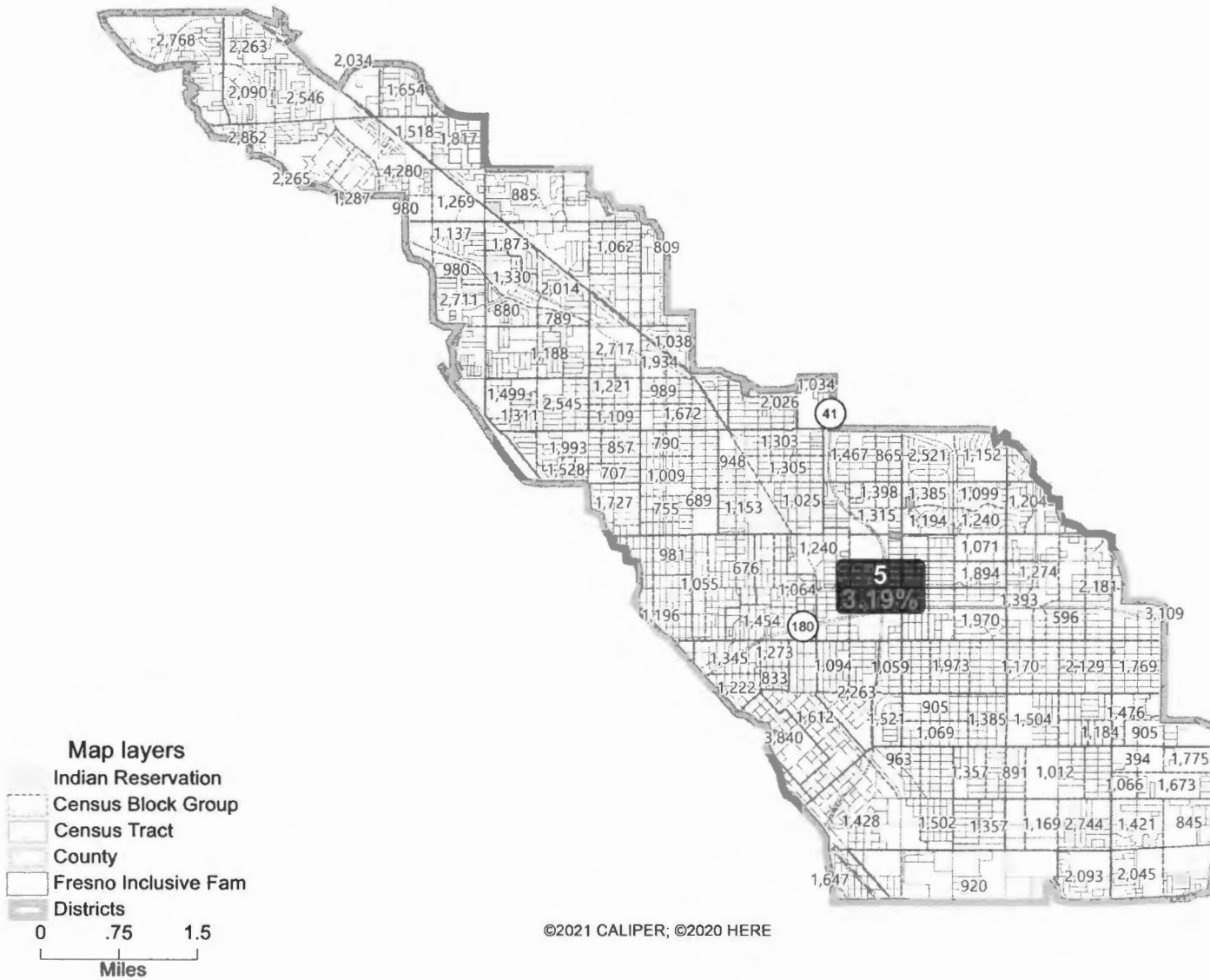
Field	Value
District	3
Population	198357
Deviation	-3,374
% Deviation	-1.67%
18+_Pop	139474
% 18+_Pop	70.31%
US citizens 18+ EST	70302
US citizens 18+ EST	35.44%
Hispanic Origin	139168
% Hispanic Origin	70.16%
H18+_Pop	93703
% H18+_Pop	67.18%
US citizens 18+ EST	41622
US citizens 18+ EST	59.2%
NH_Wht	30333
% NH_Wht	15.29%
NH18+_Wht	25137
% NH18+_Wht	18.02%
NH_BlK	3261
% NH_BlK	1.64%
NH18+_Blk	2408
% NH18+_Blk	1.73%
NH_Asn	20344
% NH_Asn	10.26%
NH18+_Asn	14670
% NH18+_Asn	10.52%
US citizens 18+ EST	7031
US citizens 18+ EST	10%
NH_Ind	632
% NH_Ind	0.32%
NH18+_Ind	457
% NH18+_Ind	0.33%
NH_Hwn	115
% NH_Hwn	0.06%
NH18+_Hwn	85

## District: 4



Field	Value
District	4
Population	201499
Deviation	-232
% Deviation	-0.12%
18+_Pop	148180
% 18+_Pop	73.54%
US citizens 18+ EST	115673
US citizens 18+ EST	57.41%
Hispanic Origin	85218
% Hispanic Origin	42.29%
H18+_Pop	57397
% H18+_Pop	38.73%
US citizens 18+ EST	41592
US citizens 18+ EST	35.96%
NH_Wht	67803
% NH_Wht	33.65%
NH18+_Wht	56318
% NH18+_Wht	38.01%
NH_Blkl	9340
% NH_Blkl	4.64%
NH18+_Blkl	6813
% NH18+_Blkl	4.6%
NH_Asn	28025
% NH_Asn	13.91%
NH18+_Asn	20225
% NH18+_Asn	13.65%
US citizens 18+ EST	13047
US citizens 18+ EST	11.28%
NH_Ind	1538
% NH_Ind	0.76%
NH18+_Ind	1160
% NH18+_Ind	0.78%
NH_Hwn	424
% NH_Hwn	0.21%
NH18+_Hwn	334

# District: 5



Field	Value
District	5
Population	208167
Deviation	6,436
% Deviation	3.19%
18+_Pop	148055
% 18+_Pop	71.12%
US citizens 18+ EST	101715
US citizens 18+ EST	48.86%
Hispanic Origin	128507
% Hispanic Origin	61.73%
H18+_Pop	85673
% H18+_Pop	57.87%
US citizens 18+ EST	51235
US citizens 18+ EST	50.37%
NH_Wht	36548
% NH_Wht	17.56%
NH18+_Wht	31521
% NH18+_Wht	21.29%
NH_BlK	14828
% NH_BlK	7.12%
NH18+_Blk	10515
% NH18+_Blk	7.1%
NH_Asn	20233
% NH_Asn	9.72%
NH18+_Asn	14752
% NH18+_Asn	9.96%
US citizens 18+ EST	8724
US citizens 18+ EST	8.58%
NH_Ind	1447
% NH_Ind	0.7%
NH18+_Ind	1089
% NH18+_Ind	0.74%
NH_Hwn	280
% NH_Hwn	0.13%
NH18+_Hwn	220

# CCCFER

## CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR EQUITABLE REALIGNMENT

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October 2, 2021

To: Board of Supervisors Redistricting Advisory Commission

Re: Equity Coalition Map

The Central California Coalition for Equitable Realignment (CCCFER) began meeting more than a year ago to lay the groundwork for community participation in redistricting discussions this year. Many of us had been involved with the process 10 years ago and recognized how challenging it was to ensure that the community was effectively informed and given every opportunity to engage.

We reached out to several community-based organizations and advocacy groups to collaborate. Earlier this year, when we learned of a larger Valley-wide collaborative, we combined our group with theirs. The Equity Coalition Map is the product of our collective input.

Board of Supervisor districts throughout the Central Valley are not currently designed to reflect the region's demographics or its diversity. Moreover, in previous cycles, the process has often been rushed, opaque and lacking community voices.

The Equity Coalition Map outlines a path to achieving equitable realignment. The map addresses the most problematic issue with the county's current districts, which is not respecting the east and west divide in rural farming communities. Indeed, the current District 4 runs from Orange Cove to Coalinga. How many people in Coalinga have ever been to Orange Cove? Or even know where it is?

Several laws now govern the development of maps for legislative districts, and the Equity Coalition Map adheres to all those requirements. The map accurately reflects communities of interest throughout the county and is a data-driven proposal that is legally defensible.

The map reflects three majority-minority districts, which is reflective of the county's current population. Such districts increase the likelihood of electing supervisors who are knowledgeable of and committed to addressing the many issues that face our challenged communities.

We reiterate our support of the Equity Coalition Map for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Evans, Chair  
704-975-8874  
evansm@usa.net



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION

Northern  
California



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION

Southern California

September 16, 2021

*Via Email*

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Hall of Records  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us)

Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission  
County Administrative Office  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 304  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov)

**Re: Supervisorial Redistricting Process**

Dear Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and Members of the Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission:

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Northern California and the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California write to address comments made by some members of the Fresno Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding their intent to keep the existing supervisorial districts largely the same during this redistricting cycle by only changing the districts at the margins to balance the population.<sup>1</sup> These comments are extremely concerning because this approach prioritizes maintaining the core of existing districts over mandatory criteria, something prohibited by federal law and by the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (FAIR MAPS) Act (hereinafter, the Fair Maps Act).<sup>2</sup> This approach also defeats the purpose of the redistricting process: to periodically redraw district boundaries to provide residents with fair representation.

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<sup>1</sup> During the April 13, 2021, Fresno County Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors stated that, as part of the 2021 redistricting process, they expected only minor changes to the existing Fresno County supervisorial map. *See* Agenda Item 6 starting at 1:07:45, *available at* [http://fresnocounty.granicus.com/player/clip/804?view\\_id=1&redirect=true](http://fresnocounty.granicus.com/player/clip/804?view_id=1&redirect=true). For example, Supervisor Buddy Mendes said that the 2021 redistricting process was simply about “tweaking” or “moving over” somewhere “between 3 to 5 census tracts.” *Id.* at 1:15:37. He noted that during the 2010 redistricting process, any district line changes mostly occurred in District 5 where “the census tract boundaries basically moved slightly to the North East...just slightly.” *Id.* at 1:16:03. Supervisor Nathan Magsig stated that he was saddened that his district will likely be impacted the most with the redistricting process and if he could, he would “keep the lines exactly as they are because [he] appreciate[s] the opportunity to serve everyone in [his] district.” *Id.* at 1:36:52. Supervisor Brian Pacheco echoed the sentiment that the redistricting process would result in little change because he did not expect “wholesale changes” in the Fresno County districts lines. *Id.* at 1:45:40. Lastly, Supervisor Steve Brandau foreshadowed to the public that the Fresno County district map would only “shift relatively slightly” because of some “border changes based on population growth.” *Id.* at 1:51:52.

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Elec. Code § 21500 *et. seq.* (relevant provisions for counties).

The Board adopted the 2011 district map using 2010 data and under a different legal landscape. Unlike this cycle, in 2011 the Board was not explicitly required to keep communities of interest together or to engage in a robust outreach and education campaign to solicit public testimony. In 2011, line drawers in California were only required to ensure equality of population and to avoid vote dilution. They were permitted to consider traditional redistricting principles but could ignore them completely and could place as much or as little weight as they wanted on other factors, including undemocratic factors such as protecting incumbents by largely maintaining existing lines. Because the Board adopted the current map under a different legal scheme, the Board may well be in violation of the Fair Maps Act if it decides to adopt a map that simply balances the population of the existing map.<sup>3</sup> We urge the Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission (Advisory Commission) to instead start with a blank slate when drafting a district map and allowing testimony from the public about communities of interest in Fresno County to guide line-drawing. Similarly, we urge the Board to adopt a map that keeps these communities of interest together and that does not dilute the vote of any protected groups.

## I. Decennial Redistricting and Traditional Redistricting Principles

The Board's interest in maintaining the current lines by only slightly adjusting them to bring the districts within the allowable population deviation reflects a basic misunderstanding of the decennial redistricting process. Equality of population is not important for its own sake. Instead, equality of population serves the larger goal of decennial redistricting: to "achiev[e] fair and effective representation for all citizens." *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 565-56, 560-61 (1964) (noting that "the fundamental principle of representative government in this country" mandates "equal representation for equal numbers of people"). The purpose of periodic redistricting is to "maintain[ ] a reasonably current scheme of legislative representation" that reflects not just population changes, but also reflects communities of interest and any changes over time in other demographic trends. *See id.* at 583-84.

Line drawers use a series of tools in addition to equality of population to draft maps that "observe and advance neutral democratic values." *See Bethune-Hill v. Va. State Bd. of Elec.*, 141 F. Supp. 3d 505, 534-35 (E.D. Va. 2015), *affirmed in part, vacated in part*, 137 S. Ct. 788 (2017). Indeed, line drawers are permitted to deviate from perfect equality of population precisely to accommodate these principles. *See Reynolds*, 377 U.S. at 578-79 (indicating when divergence from the strict population standard is constitutionally permissible). They include communities of interest, compactness, contiguity, and following natural, artificial, and political subdivision boundaries. Cal. Elec. Code § 21500(c); *see also Evenwel v. Abbot*, 136 S. Ct. 1120, 1124 (2016) (listing traditional redistricting principles). Contiguity and compactness, for example, facilitate political organization, electoral campaigning, and constituent representation by binding geographic communities of interest together. *Karcher v. Daggett*, 462 U.S. 725, 756 (1983) (noting importance of compactness); *Bethune-Hill*, 141 F. Supp. 3d at 536-37 (noting importance of contiguity). Courts in turn have found that preserving neighborhoods, political subdivisions, and "communities of interest is important because the sense of community derived from established governmental units tends to foster effective representation." *Arizonans for Fair Representation v. Symington*, 828 F. Supp. 684, 690 (D. Ariz. 1992) (quotations omitted). Without these criteria, line drawers would be free to engage in "indiscriminate redistricting" which would be "little more than an open invitation to partisan gerrymandering." *Reynolds*, 377 U.S. at 578-79.

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<sup>3</sup> During the 2011 redistricting process, the Board appointed an advisory redistricting commission but ultimately rejected the group's map recommendations. *See* Kurtis Alexander, "Fresno Co. Supes End Stalemate on district," THE FRESNO BEE (Aug. 30, 2011) *available at*: <https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/community/clovis-news/article19512345.html>. At the time, at least one Board member indicated that "she wanted to shuffle around as few people as possible." *Id.*

While courts have for decades uplifted the importance of traditional redistricting principles, they have spoken disapprovingly of individualized, political criteria such as incumbency protection and partisan gerrymandering. *See, e.g., Johnson v. Miller*, 922 F. Supp. 1556, 1565 (S.D. Ga. 1995) (three-judge court) (noting that incumbency protection is a politicized factor); *Ariz. State Leg. v. Ariz. Indep. Redist. Com'n*, 576 U.S. 787, 791 (2015) (noting that partisan gerrymanders “are incompatible with democratic principles”) (quotations omitted). Courts also recognize that some incumbents are improperly motivated to keep district lines the same precisely to protect their seats. *Evenwel*, 136 S. Ct. at 1123 (observing the problem that legislators have “scant incentive to adopt new maps that might put them out of office”); *Reynolds*, 377 U.S. at 583 (recognizing that even redistricting only once a decade has drawbacks because it leads “to the development of resistance to change on the part of some incumbent legislators”). Because incumbency protection and partisan gerrymandering defy the basic principle that “voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around,” *Ariz. State Leg.*, 576 U.S. at 824, courts have subordinated these criteria to traditional redistricting principles, *see, e.g., Johnson*, 922 F. Supp. at 1565 (subordinating incumbency protection to communities of interest); *Ga. State Conf. of the NAACP v. Fayette Cnty. Bd. of Com'rs*, 996 F. Sup. 2d 1353, 1363 (N.D. Ga. 2014) (noting that “when incumbent protection has been considered, courts have routinely treated this principle as a *distinctly subordinate* consideration to the other traditional redistricting principles”) (quotations excluded, emphasis in original). The Board and Advisory Commission must do the same this cycle.

## II. The Fair Maps Act and Mandatory Redistricting Criteria

Although courts have highlighted the importance of traditional redistricting criteria, these criteria were discretionary for decades, including during the 2011 redistricting cycle. *Compare Miller v. Bd. of Super. of Santa Clara Cnty.*, 63 Cal. 2d 343, 345 n.1 (1965) (listing discretionary criteria in place at the time), *with* Cal. Elec. Code § 21500 (2019) (amended 2020) (listing the same discretionary criteria); *see also* A.B. 849 Assemb. Floor Analysis at 2 (Sep. 4, 2019) (noting that county redistricting criteria has been largely unchanged since 1947). In 2019, however, the California Legislature passed the Fair Maps Act,<sup>4</sup> requiring counties to, in order of priority: ensure substantial equality of population, comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, and create districts that are geographically contiguous, maintain communities of interest, avoid dividing cities and census designated places, use boundaries that are easily identifiable and understandable by residents, and are compact. Cal. Elec. Code § 21500(a)-(c). The Fair Maps Act further requires the Board and Advisory Commission to engage in a robust outreach and education campaign to encourage public participation and solicit testimony about communities of interest in the County. *Id.* §§ 21507, 21507.1, 21508(a), (g).

Notably, preserving existing supervisorial lines has never been listed as a discretionary factor in state law. *See Miller*, 63 Cal. 2d at 345 n.1 (listing discretionary criteria in place in 1965 which did not include preserving existing districts); Cal. Elec. Code § 21500 (2019) (amended 2020) (same).<sup>5</sup> Neither does the Fair Maps Act list this criterion as one of the ranked, mandatory factors. *See* Cal. Elec. Code § 21500. Instead, the Act explicitly prohibits many of the practices that animate the desire to keep existing lines largely the same. For example, the Fair Maps Act prohibits the Board from adopting a supervisorial map “for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.” *Id.* § 21500(d). The Fair

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<sup>4</sup> The Fair Maps Act was amended in 2020 by A.B. 1276.

<sup>5</sup> State law in 1965 and in 2019 provided the following: “In establishing the boundaries of the [supervisorial] districts the board may give consideration to the following factors: (a) topography, (b) geography, (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and (d) community of interests of the [supervisorial] districts.” Cal. Gov't Code § 25001 (1964) (current version Cal. Elec. Code § 21500 (2021)); Cal. Elec. Code § 21500 (2019).

Maps Act also excludes incumbency protection and continuity of representation<sup>6</sup> from the ranked criteria and is instead clear that “[c]ommunities of interest *do not* include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.” Cal. Elec. Code § 21500(c)(2) (emphasis added).

Although prior to the passage of the Fair Maps Act courts had noted that jurisdictions may have their own, local redistricting criteria, these same courts disregarded these criteria when they conflicted with mandatory and permissive factors found in state and federal law. In *Luna v. County of Kern*, for example, the district court rejected Kern County’s argument that any remedial supervisorial district map had to remain as unchanged as possible from the 2011 map, particularly because doing so would violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act by fragmenting the Latino population. 291 F. Supp. 3d 1088, 1112 (E.D. Cal. 2018). Similarly, in *Garza v. County of Los Angeles*, the Ninth Circuit upheld a district court’s rejection of the 1981 Los Angeles County supervisorial district map because supervisors had prioritized incumbency protection even though that cracked a cohesive Latino community of interest. 918 F.2d 763, 771 (9th Cir. 1990). Finally, in *Miller*, the California Supreme Court rejected a supervisorial map because it was “readily apparent that the factors on which the board reliev[d] in apportioning the districts [were] not the fundamental factors prescribed” in state law. 63 Cal. 2d at 349. Instead of following or considering state law factors, the board’s draft map was “primarily compelled by a desire and the result of an effort to preserve traditional political subdivisions,” a factor absent from state law at the time. *Id.* at 349. A court would no doubt also reject a Fresno County supervisorial map that prioritizes preserving existing lines, a factor absent from the Fair Maps Act, over mandatory factors, such as preserving communities of interest.

### **III. The Board Must Adopt a Map that Complies with Mandatory Criteria**

In adopting the Fair Maps Act and making traditional redistricting criteria mandatory, the California Legislature took the firm position that counties may not simply tweak lines every ten years to address malapportionment. Instead, line drawers must conduct a thorough process that, in the end, results in a map that keeps communities of interest together. During prior redistricting cycles, Fresno County did not have to create districts that were contiguous, maintained communities of interest, and were compact. California law also did not explicitly prohibit the Board from favoring or discriminating against a political party, or from considering incumbency, partisan affiliation, and relationships with representatives. Because in 2011 and during prior redistricting cycles the Board was not required to consider now mandatory criteria,<sup>7</sup> the current Board and the Advisory Commission are under no obligation to give any deference to existing district lines or to use them as a starting point.

A review of demographic changes over the past two decades strongly suggests that the Board has for decades prioritized largely maintaining existing lines over ensuring that lines capture communities of interest. In 2011, for example, the Board adopted a map almost identical to the 2001 supervisorial map

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<sup>6</sup> Some have framed the preservation of existing lines as an effort to maintain the relationships between the public and their representatives. Even if this were truly a concern about County residents and not about protecting incumbents, the California Legislature has determined that other criteria outweigh this concern. Cal. Elec. Code § 21500(c)(2) (excluding relationships with incumbents from the communities of interest assessment); *see also Rodriguez v. Harris Cnty., Tex.*, 964 F. Supp. 2d 686, 746 (S.D. Tex. 2013) (noting that redistricting criteria are often in tension with each other “such that adherence to one redistricting principle necessitates the subjugation of a competing principle”).

<sup>7</sup> During the 2011 redistricting cycle, supervisors made comments indicating that they were considering now prohibited criteria. For example, then-Supervisor Susan Anderson prioritized maintaining relationships with her constituents, stating that “[t]here should not be one voter that comes out of my district[.]” Kurtis Alexander, “7 proposals for Fresno Co. supervisor districts,” THE FRESNO BEE (Jun. 7, 2011), *available at* <https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/community/clovis-news/article19511334.html>.



notwithstanding the fact that between 2000 and 2010 the Latino population grew from 44 to 50.3 percent of the total Fresno County population.<sup>8</sup> Redistricting data from the 2020 census shows that the Latino population has now grown to 53.6 percent, an almost 10 percent increase in the last 20 years. These demographic changes have not been uniform throughout the county. For example, between 2010 and 2019, the Latino population increased 2.5 percentage points in district 4 and increased 4.7 percentage points in district 2.<sup>9</sup>

Public testimony will no doubt confirm what the data suggest: that a new supervisorial map that is largely the same as the 2011 map and is, in turn, largely the same as the 2000 map does not take into account dramatic demographic shifts since 2000 and likely violates state law. To avoid violating the law and to ensure fair and effective representation in the County, the Board must dispense of its misguided goal to maintain existing lines as much as possible. The Advisory Commission must start fresh and, among other things: solicit and listen to public testimony with an open mind; start to understand the location of distinct neighborhoods and communities of interest in the County; look to American Community Survey data to identify which areas in the County have similar socioeconomic characteristics; and work with consultants to draft a map that captures these communities while following other mandatory, ranked criteria. If the Advisory Commission fails to comply with such requirements when drafting and recommending maps, it is incumbent on the Board to ensure that any final map complies with both state and federal law.

\* \* \*

Redistricting inherently involves changes in current district lines. These changes can be large or small, depending on how representative the lines were during prior redistricting cycles and how drastic changes have been since the last cycle. In this case, we know that the 2011 lines were drawn under an entirely different legal regime and that there have been drastic demographic changes in Fresno County in the past few decades. We urge the Board and the Advisory Commission to follow the Fair Maps Act and engage in a good faith effort to adopt a fair and equitable supervisorial district map. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [asalceda@aclunc.org](mailto:asalceda@aclunc.org) and [jgomez@aclusocal.org](mailto:jgomez@aclusocal.org).

Sincerely,



Angélica Salceda  
Democracy & Civic Engagement Director  
ACLU Foundation of Northern California



Luis Ojeda  
Regional Organizing & Program Manager  
ACLU Foundation of Northern California



Julia A. Gomez  
Staff Attorney  
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

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<sup>8</sup> Data from the 2000 decennial census and the 2010 decennial census.

<sup>9</sup> Using 2010 decennial census data and 2019 5-year American Community Survey data.



**SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE**

September 22, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
*FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov*

To: Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
 & The County's Advisory Redistricting Commission

Re: SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE Strong Support  
 for **Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)** Map Proposal

Service Employees International Union (SEIU), local 521 Fresno Committee on Political Education (COPE) is a group of concerned workers and community members in Fresno County. We note with concern that our representatives often do not reflect the region's diversity. We strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle, so that minority voters have an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE represents many families and cities in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. We advocate for working families in the Central Valley to have rights and get the support they need to thrive.

We have carefully reviewed the new Census data, which confirms that significant demographic changes continue to transform Fresno County.

**Fresno County Board of Supervisors - 2020**

Current Districts			Race/Ethnicity				
YEAR	Total Population	Year % Change	Latino %	White %	Black %	Asian %	% of Pop
1990	666,675		35.4%	50.7%	4.7%	8.1%	1.0%
2000	798,800	19.82%	44.0%	39.7%	5.0%	7.9%	3.4%
2010	930,450	16.48%	50.3%	32.7%	4.8%	9.3%	2.8%
2020	1,008,654	8.40%	53.6%	27.0%	4.4%	10.9%	2.7%

**Re: SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE**  
for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Two

While the Latino population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, the opportunity for disadvantaged populations to elect candidates of their choice at the County Supervisor level, has not kept pace. We see the Fair Maps Act of 2019 and the Federal Voting Rights Act as opportunities and requirements to do more than simply move a few census tracts between urban districts to equalize population.

We are excited at the potential for significant change in the boundaries of County Supervisorial Districts, to reflect the demographic shifts that have occurred.

SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE believes the current map for the Fresno Board of Supervisors should be changed to reflect two distinct communities of interest separated by Highway 41: the rural Westside (Proposed District 1) and the rural Eastside (Proposed District 4).

EMC's Proposed Map recognizes the significant differences between these two regions, whether we look at crops grown, soil type, or transportation patterns. Even their water comes from different sources. On the Eastside, the farms are smaller, with more communities that are more densely populated. On the Westside, the communities are fewer and farther apart, with much bigger farms and more mechanized agriculture, requiring less labor.

We are pleased District 1, as proposed by EMC, covers the entire rural Westside, everything west of Highway 41 and all areas of the City of Fresno west of Highway 99.

- **Rural Cities:** Firebaugh, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin. Proposed District 1 **ADDS** Huron and Coalinga, which are now in District 4. The current District 4 stretches 100 miles, from Coalinga to Orange Cove.
- **Unincorporated communities:** Biola, Cantua Creek, Five Points, Tranquility, and West Park. As proposed, District 1 **ADDS** Caruthers, Easton, Lanare, Raisin City, & Riverdale, which are now in District 4.

These unincorporated rural communities are among the poorest and most isolated, and lack the basic features of a safe, healthy, sustainable neighborhood—potable drinking water, sewer systems, safe housing, public transportation, parks, sidewalks, and streetlights. Moreover, these communities are systematically underserved in the overall allocation of public resources and are frequently overlooked in local decisions.

The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency transit routes shed light on transportation patterns in the rural Westside and support use of Highway 41 as the dividing line.

Westlands and Westhills College District are currently split into two supervisor districts, but EMC's Proposed District 1 includes:

- All the West Hills Community College District located within Fresno County, including the main Coalinga campus and the Firebaugh campus.

- All the Westlands Water District  
**Re: SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE**  
for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Three

For these, and many other reasons, and after carefully reviewing the Supervisorial District map proposed by the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition and the Dolores Huerta Foundation, the SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE stands in strong support.

EMC's map is fair, research-based, meets all federal and state legal requirements, and provides an opportunity for fair representation.

Sincerely,

*Brian Murillo*

Fresno COPE Chair  
SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE  
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Bmurillo84@gmail.com

Sincerely,

*Heather Evans*

Fresno COPE Vice Chair  
SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE  
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## Central Valley Progressive PAC



September 22, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
*FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov*

To: Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
& the County's Advisory Redistricting Commission

Re: Central Valley Progressive PAC Strong Support  
for the **Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)** Map Proposal

The Central Valley Progressive PAC is a group of concerned activists in Fresno County. We note with concern that our representatives often do not reflect the region's diversity. We strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle, so that minority voters would have an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

The Central Valley Progressive PAC represents many families and cities in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. We advocate for all progressives in the Central Valley to have a voice and get the resources they need to thrive.

We have carefully reviewed the new Census data, which confirms that significant demographic changes continue to transform Fresno County.

### Fresno County Board of Supervisors - 2020

Current Districts			Race/Ethnicity				
YEAR	Total Population	Year % Change	Latino %	White %	Black %	Asian %	% of Pop
1990	666,675		35.4%	50.7%	4.7%	8.1%	1.0%
2000	798,800	19.82%	44.0%	39.7%	5.0%	7.9%	3.4%
2010	930,450	16.48%	50.3%	32.7%	4.8%	9.3%	2.8%
2020	1,008,654	8.40%	53.6%	27.0%	4.4%	10.9%	2.7%

Although the Latino population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, the opportunity for disadvantaged populations to elect candidates of their choice at the County Supervisor level has not kept pace. We see the Fair Maps Act of 2019 and the Federal Voting Rights Act as opportunities and requirements to do more than simply move a few Census tracts between urban districts to equalize population.

Re: Central Valley Progressive PAC Strong Support  
for the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal

Page Two

We are excited at the potential for significant change in the boundaries of County Supervisorial districts to reflect the demographic shifts that have occurred.

The Central Valley Progressive PAC believes the current map for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors should be changed to reflect two distinct communities of interest separated by Highway 41: the rural Westside (Proposed District 1) and the rural Eastside (Proposed District 4).

EMC's proposed map recognizes the significant differences between these two regions, whether we look at crops grown, soil type or transportation patterns. Even their water comes from different sources. On the Eastside, the farms are smaller, with more communities that are more densely populated. On the Westside, the communities are fewer and farther apart, with much bigger farms and more mechanized agriculture, requiring less labor.

We are pleased that District 1, as proposed by the EMC, covers the entire rural Westside, everything west of Highway 41 and all areas of the city of Fresno west of Highway 99.

- **Rural Cities:** Firebaugh, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin. Proposed District 1 **ADDS** Huron and Coalinga, which are now in District 4. The current District 4 stretches 100 miles, from Coalinga to Orange Cove.
- **Unincorporated communities:** Biola, Cantua Creek, Five Points, Tranquillity and West Park. As proposed, District 1 **ADDS** Caruthers, Easton, Lanare, Raisin City and Riverdale, which are now in District 4.

These unincorporated rural communities are among the poorest and most isolated, many of which lack the basic features of a safe, healthy, sustainable neighborhoods—potable drinking water, sewer systems, safe housing, public transportation, parks, sidewalks, and streetlights. Moreover, these communities are systematically underserved in the overall allocation of public resources and are frequently overlooked in local decisions.

The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency transit routes shed light on transportation patterns in the rural Westside and support use of Highway 41 as the dividing line.

Westlands and the West Hills Community College District are currently split into two supervisorial districts, but EMC's proposed District 1 includes the following:

- All the West Hills Community College District located within Fresno County, including the main Coalinga campus and the Firebaugh campus.
- All the Westlands Water District.

For these, and many other reasons, and after carefully reviewing the supervisorial district map proposed by the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition and the Dolores Huerta Foundation, the Central Valley Progressive PAC stands in strong support.

Re: Central Valley Progressive PAC Strong Support  
for the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Three

The EMC's map is fair, research-based, meets all federal and state legal requirements,  
and provides an opportunity for fair representation.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Simone Cranston-Rhodes*

Central Valley Progressive PAC President

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## Central Valley Leadership Round Table

September 15, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
*FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov*

To: Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
& the County's Advisory Redistricting Commission

Re: Central Valley Leadership Round Table Strong Support  
for **Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)** Map Proposal

The Central Valley Leadership Round Table (CVLRT) is a group of rural elected and community leaders in Fresno County, many of whom are former farm laborers or the children of farmworkers. We note with concern that our representatives often do not reflect the region's diversity. We strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle, so that minority voters have an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

The CVLRT represents many families and cities in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. We advocate for more farmworker protections, a pathway to citizenship, and inclusion in coronavirus relief funding.

We have carefully reviewed the new Census data, which confirms that significant demographic changes continue to transform Fresno County.

### Fresno County Board of Supervisors - 2020

Current Districts			Race/Ethnicity				
YEAR	Total Population	Year % Change	Latino %	White %	Black %	Asian %	% of Pop
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While the Latino population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, the opportunity for disadvantaged populations to elect candidates of their choice at the County Supervisor level, has not kept pace. We see the Fair Maps Act of 2019 and the federal Voting Rights Act as opportunities and requirements to do more than simply move a few census tracts between urban districts to equalize population.



**Re: Central Valley Leadership Roundtable's Strong Support**  
for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Two

We are excited at the potential for significant change in the boundaries of County Supervisorial Districts, to reflect the demographic shifts that have occurred.

The CVLRT believes the current map for the Fresno Board of Supervisors should be changed to reflect two distinct communities of interest separated by Highway 41: the rural Westside (Proposed District 1) and the rural Eastside (Proposed District 4).

EMC's Proposed Map recognizes the significant differences between these two regions, whether we look at crops grown, soil type, or transportation patterns. Even their water comes from different sources. On the Eastside, the farms are smaller, with more communities that are more densely populated. On the Westside, the communities are fewer and farther apart, with much bigger farms and more mechanized agriculture, requiring less labor.

We are pleased District 1, as proposed by EMC, covers the entire rural Westside, everything west of Highway 41 and all areas of the City of Fresno west of Highway 99.

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Westlands and Westhills College District are currently split into two supervisor districts, but EMC's Proposed District 1 includes:

- All of the West Hills Community College District located within Fresno County, including the main Coalinga campus and the Firebaugh campus.
- All of the Westlands Water District

For these, and many other reasons, and after carefully reviewing the Supervisorial District map proposed by the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition and the Dolores Huerta Foundation, the Central Valley Leadership Round Table stands in strong support.

**Re: Central Valley Leadership Roundtable's Strong Support**  
for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Three

EMC's map is fair, research-based, meets all federal and state legal requirements, and provides an opportunity for fair representation.

Sincerely,

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10/5/2021  
AI 6



October 5, 2021

*Via Email*

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2281 Tulare Street, Room 301  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us)

Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission  
County Administrative Office  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 304  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov)

**Re: Support for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map Proposal**

Dear Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and  
Members of the Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission:

I write to express Cultiva La Salud's strong support of the Equity Map Coalition's ("EMC") proposed revised map, specifically as it relates to proposed District 4 which includes the communities of **Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities** such as **Calwa, Del Rey, Malaga, and Laton**. The proposed District 4 also includes the **older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno**, as these residents share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the Eastside.

Cultiva La Salud works closely with those communities and strongly believe that they share socioeconomic and environmental similarities that warrant them being in the same district. Keeping these communities of interest whole in proposed District 4 will allow them to receive the adequate representation they deserve, and that Fresno County has failed to provide under existing supervisorial maps. During our years of work in these communities we know that they often lack equitable investments that promote health such as easy access to healthy foods, clean water and safe places to be physically active. The absence of these investments played a role in residents' susceptibility to COVID, given the burden of pre-existing conditions in these communities. During the pandemic, there has been a lack of early outreach and education as well as the provision of resources, such as PPE, that could have helped prevent COVID spread. Now these communities are struggling to fight back against COVID. For these and the following reasons, I urge the Commission and Board of Supervisors to adopt the Equitable Map Coalition's proposed map and preserve our communities of interest.

Under the current Fresno County Board of Supervisors map, the communities east of Highway 41, in EMC's proposed District 4, are grouped in with towns and unincorporated

communities in West Fresno County, like Huron and Coalinga, that tend to rely on Interstate 5, rather than the Highway 99. The communities in proposed District 4 are also grouped with unincorporated communities like Raisin City in West Fresno County, for which Kerman serves as its hub for shopping, pharmacy, and banking needs.



EMC's proposed District 4

### **The communities in proposed District 4 share socioeconomic similarities**

The communities in EMC's proposed District 4 share demographic and socioeconomic similarities. For example, in the jurisdictions of Calwa (90%), Orange Cove (94.8%), Malaga (92.8%) and Parlier (97.5%), over 90 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census. In the jurisdictions of Laton (73.6%), Reedley (79.1%), Selma (89.2%), Del Rey (88.8%), and Sanger (82.6%), over 70 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census.

Residents from the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno and Calwa share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the eastside of Fresno County, including living in high poverty areas, heavily Latino (as described above), seasonal income

because of seasonal work, and difficulty accessing health and social services. Because these areas are heavily Latino, it also means that they share linguistic similarities.

These communities also have a more difficult time accessing broadband internet. According to ACS 2019 data, only 53.7% of Parlier residents have a subscription to broadband; only 60.3% in Orange Cove; and 68.9% in Reedley. When it comes to residents with a bachelor's degree or higher, only 4.1% have one in Parlier; 1.6% in Orange Cove; and only 12.7% in Reedley.

Many residents in these communities also travel more than 20 minutes each day to work. Specifically, ACS 2019 data reveals that Kingsburg residents travel an average of 22.9 minutes; Sanger residents 26.7 minutes; Orange Cove 27.5 minutes and, Parlier 23.2 minutes.

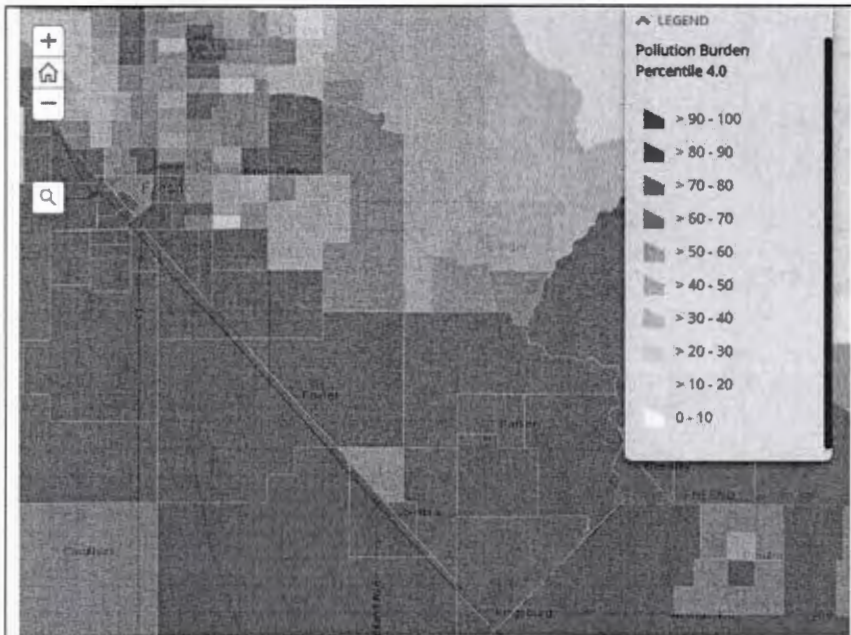
**The communities in proposed District 4 experience shared environmental burdens**  
While much of Fresno County experiences environmental burdens such as poor air quality and water insecurity issues, the communities in proposed District 4 share similarities in how they are disproportionately burdened with pollution and pesticide contamination. The undersigned organizations used California's CalEnviroScreen's mapping tool to illustrate this point.<sup>1</sup> This screening tool is particularly effective because it uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. Under such screen, almost all of the communities in proposed District 4 have a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 91-100% or above. This means that these communities are some of the most environmentally burdened and vulnerable communities in California. The screen is also used by CalEPA and its departments to aid in administering environmental justice grants, promote compliance with environmental laws, prioritize site-cleanup activities and identify opportunities for sustainable economic development. As such, it is important that these communities remain "whole" to ensure that they benefit from the same grants and funding that could be available through the state using such screening tool.

When analyzing these communities further, these communities are similarly burdened by pollution and pesticides. According to the screening tool, the communities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Selma, Parlier, Kingsburg and the unincorporated community's in-between all have a pollution burden percentile in the 80 to 100 range and a pesticide range in the 90 to 100 percentiles. *See Images below.*

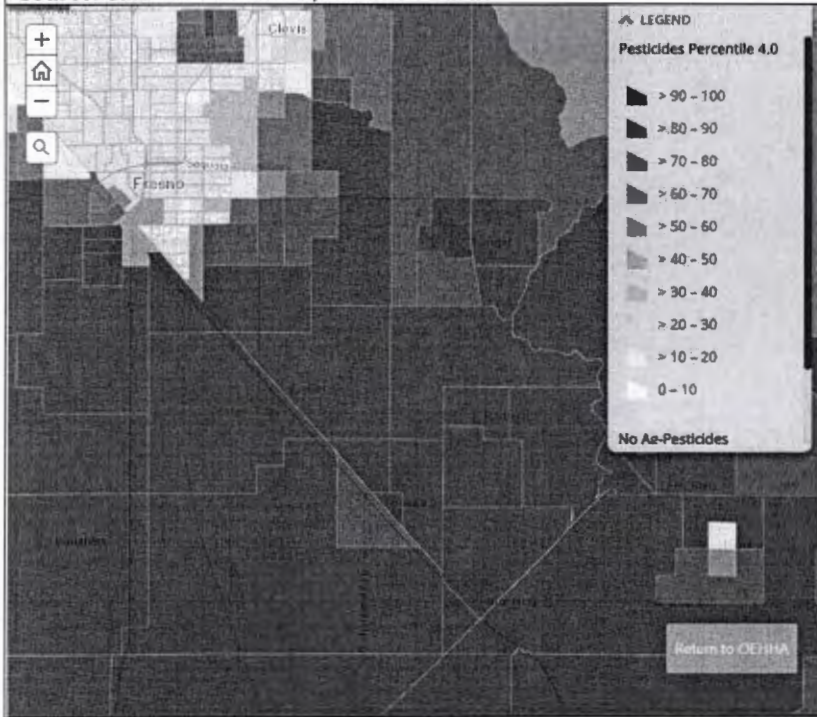
These communities have and will continue to advocate for environmental protections, as illustrated by the screening tool. As such, they will benefit from remaining together in one district as proposed in the Equitable Map Coalition's map.

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<sup>1</sup> CalEnviroScreen 3.0, available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>.



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pollution Burden



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pesticides Percentile 4.0

### **Similarities in the type of crops farmworkers harvest**

Residents who live in the communities in proposed District 4 also work in and harvest similar crops, including crops that are different from those grown in West Fresno County. For example, citrus and fresh fruit are more commonly grown in the communities of proposed District 4 while West Fresno County is known for row crops like processing tomatoes, garlic, alfalfa, and cotton. Specifically, in the Orange Cove Irrigation District, 75% of farmland is citrus and only 16% nuts and grapes.<sup>2</sup> These differences are important because it impacts skills required to cultivate and harvest the different crops. In other words, the farmworkers in West Fresno County are more familiar working with row-crops while those in Sanger, Selma, and Parlier are more familiar with citrus.

### **Conclusion**

We urge that the Commission and Board of Supervisors take our comments about our communities of interest seriously and adopt the proposed Equity Maps Coalition's map that keeps the communities of **Calwa, Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities, and the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno** together within one district. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [Genoveva@CultivaLaSalud.org](mailto:Genoveva@CultivaLaSalud.org).

Sincerely,



Genoveva Islas, MPH  
Executive Director, Cultiva La Salud

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<sup>2</sup> Orange Cove Irrigation District, available at: <http://www.orangecoveid.org/about%20the%20district.php#>.



10/5/2021  
AI 6

October 3, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov

To: Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission

Re: Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter support for the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition  
map proposal

The Sierra Club is our nation's premier, volunteer-driven environmental organization, with more than 760,000 dues-paying members. Our Club's Tehipite Chapter covers four counties in the Sierra Nevada foothills and central San Joaquin Valley, including 1,330 members in Fresno County. Our Club's mission is, "To explore, enjoy and protect the planet. To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives."

The Sierra Club is best known for advocating for protection of the magnificent wildlands of the United States, and has played a significant role in preserving public lands, including Yosemite National Park, back to our founding by John Muir in 1892. In the past decade, however, the Club has recognized that we need to influence local government, as well, if we are to limit climate change, which is breaking our planet's life support system. For this reason, the Sierra Club is involved with electing and supporting elected officials with the courage to speak up on environmental issues, and has allied with communities on the front lines of the environment, including San Joaquin Valley residents confronting air pollution, toxic waste, or a lack of safe and affordable drinking water.

Our Sierra Club believes that elected government functions best when it makes decisions in the open, with transparency and accountability to the public. The California FAIR Map Act, passed in 2019, provides the guidance for local government to use in redistricting. The Act lays out clear guidelines for how political district lines, including County Supervisorial districts, need to be drawn in time for the 2022 elections. Districts must comply with seven criteria, in the following order: (1) equal population to comply with the U.S. Constitution; (2) compliance with the federal Voting Rights Acts to ensure minorities have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice; (3) districts must be contiguous; (4) they must respect the boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest; (5) they should be geographically compact; (6) they should have two Assembly districts nested within each State Senate district; and (7) they shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against an incumbent, candidate or political party. California Constitution article XXI; CA Government Code, §§ 8251 - 8253.6.

*Despite these explicit instructions required by state law, three Fresno County Supervisors have stated on the record that existing Supervisorial districts, with very minor modifications, will be left unchanged in the current redistricting. This intransigence in the face of significant shifts in the County's demographics would, in our opinion, violate the California FAIR Map Act.*

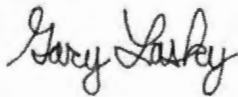


The Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition has done an impressive amount of work to carefully identify the Communities of Interest in our county, and to work to ensure these are not diluted by splitting them across County Supervisor districts in our proposed map.

For example, in our proposed map, Supervisorial District 4 is reduced to a manageable geographic size, combining the population centers along Highway 99 south of Fresno, from Calwa to Kingsburg, and adding in the farming communities of Reedley and Sanger. Also, Westside Fresno County is no longer arbitrarily split in two, and the western half of existing District 4 is merged with District 1. Also, District 5 includes East Clovis and the developing region of former farmland, now transforming into bedroom communities, and keeps the City of Clovis intact. Communities of Interest of District 5 are preserved, including the surviving groves of Sequoia trees and Sierra foothill tourism-oriented communities such as Squaw Valley.

In conclusion, the Sierra Club urges that you support the proposed map of the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition. We believe it is healthy when government responds to the needs of the entire electorate rather than catering to the needs of a limited segment of our population, one which has historically had the ear of our Fresno County Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Lasky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Lasky, Chair  
Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter

4677 N Safford Ave  
Fresno, CA 93704  
tehipite.chapter@sierraclub.org and  
data.nations@icloud.com  
559-790-3495 cell



## Central California Environmental Justice Network

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October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*Via Email*

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Hall of Records  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us)

Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission  
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2281 Tulare Street, Room 304  
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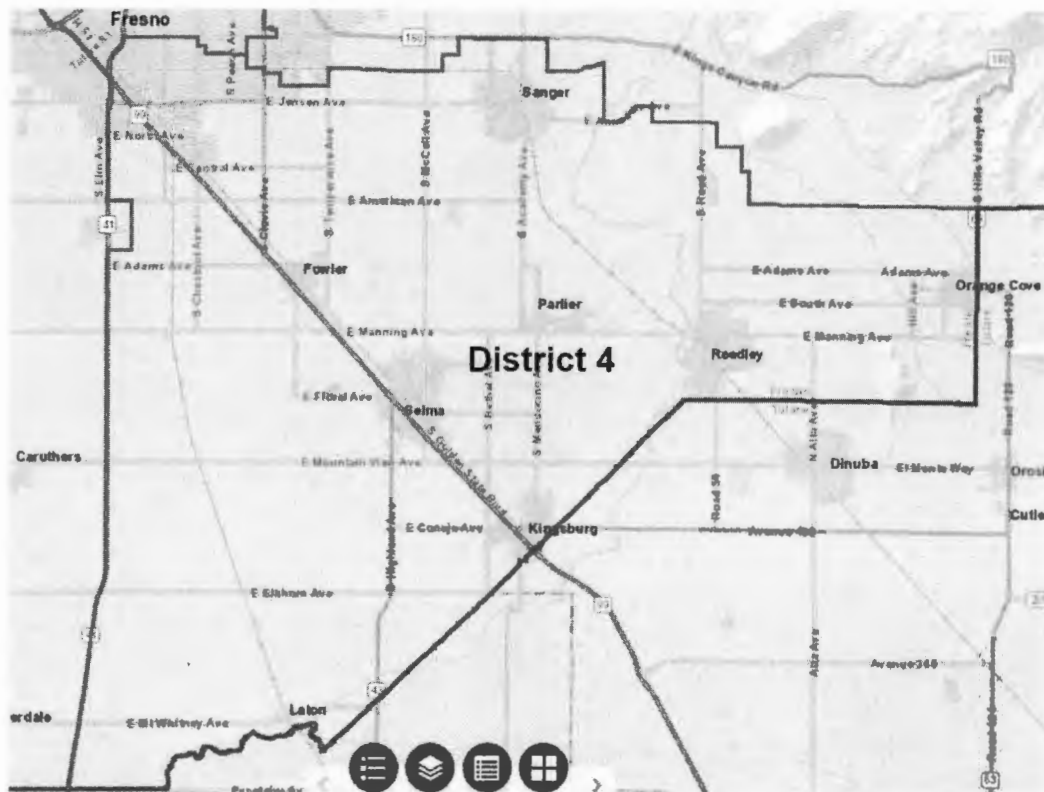
**Re: Support for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map Proposal**

Dear Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and Members of the Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission:

On behalf of the Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN), we write to express our strong support of the Equity Map Coalition's ("EMC") proposed revised map, specifically as it relates to proposed District 4 which includes the communities of **Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities** such as **Calwa, Del Rey, Malaga, and Laton**. The proposed District 4 also includes the **older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno**, as these residents share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the Eastside.

For over 20 years, CCEJN has worked closely with residents of the disadvantaged communities of Calwa, Del Rey, Malaga, Orange Cove and Southeast Fresno and we have seen firsthand the socioeconomic and environmental similarities that warrant them being in the same district. Keeping these communities of interest whole in proposed District 4 will allow them to receive the adequate representation they deserve, and that Fresno County has failed to provide under existing supervisorial maps. For these and the following reasons, we urge the Commission and Board of Supervisors to adopt the Equitable Map Coalition's proposed map and preserve our communities of interest.

Under the current Fresno County Board of Supervisors map, the communities east of Highway 41, in EMC's proposed District 4, are grouped in with towns and unincorporated communities in West Fresno County, like Huron and Coalinga, that tend to rely on Interstate 5, rather than the Highway 99. The communities in proposed District 4 are also grouped with unincorporated communities like Raisin City in West Fresno County, for which Kerman serves as its hub for shopping, pharmacy and banking needs.



EMC's proposed District 4

### The communities in proposed District 4 share socioeconomic similarities

The communities in EMC's proposed District 4 share demographic and socioeconomic similarities. For example, in the jurisdictions of Calwa (90%), Orange Cove (94.8%), Malaga (92.8%) and Parlier (97.5%), over 90 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census. In the jurisdictions of Laton (73.6%), Reedley (79.1%), Selma (89.2%), Del Rey (88.8%), and Sanger (82.6%), over 70 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census.

Residents from the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno and Calwa share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the Eastside, including living in high poverty areas, heavily Latino (as described above), seasonal income because of seasonal work, and difficulty accessing health and social services. Because these areas are heavily Latino, it also means that they share linguistic similarities.

These communities also have a more difficult time accessing broadband internet. According to ACS 2019 data, only 53.7% of Parlier residents have a subscription to broadband; only 60.3% in Orange Cove; and 68.9% in Reedley. When it comes to residents with a bachelors degree or higher, only 4.1% have one in Parlier; 1.6% in Orange Cove; and only 12.7% in Reedley.

Many residents in these communities also travel more than 20 minutes each day to work. Specifically, ACS 2019 data reveals that Kingsburg residents travel an average of 22.9 minutes; Sanger residents 26.7 minutes; Orange Cove 27.5 minutes and, Parlier 23.2 minutes.

**The communities in proposed District 4 experience shared environmental burdens**

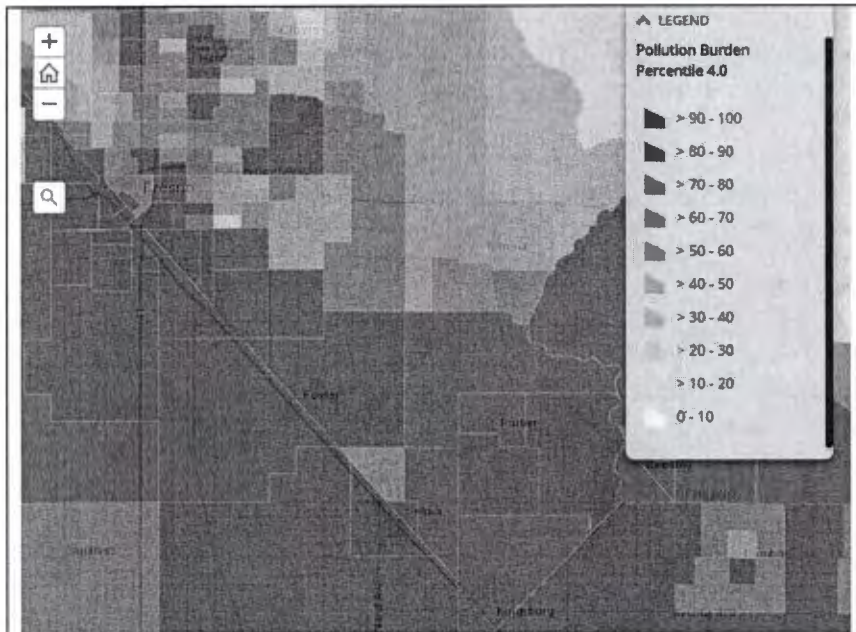
While much of Fresno County experiences environmental burdens such as poor air quality and water insecurity issues, the communities in proposed District 4 share similarities in how they are disproportionately burdened with pollution and pesticide contamination. The undersigned organizations used California's CalEnviroScreen's mapping tool to illustrate this point.<sup>1</sup> This screening tool is particularly effective because it uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. Under such screen, almost all of the communities in proposed District 4 have a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Score of 91-100% or above. This means that these communities are some of the most environmentally burdened and vulnerable communities in California. The screen is also used by CalEPA and its departments to aid in administering environmental justice grants, promote compliance with environmental laws, prioritize site-cleanup activities and identify opportunities for sustainable economic development. As such, it is important that these communities remain "whole" to ensure that they benefit from the same grants and funding that could be available through the state using such screening tool.

When analyzing these communities further, these communities are similarly burdened by pollution and pesticides. According to the screening tool, the communities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Selma, Parlier, Kingsburg and the unincorporated communities in-between all have a pollution burden percentile in the 80 to 100 range and a pesticide range in the 90 to 100 percentile. *See Images below.*

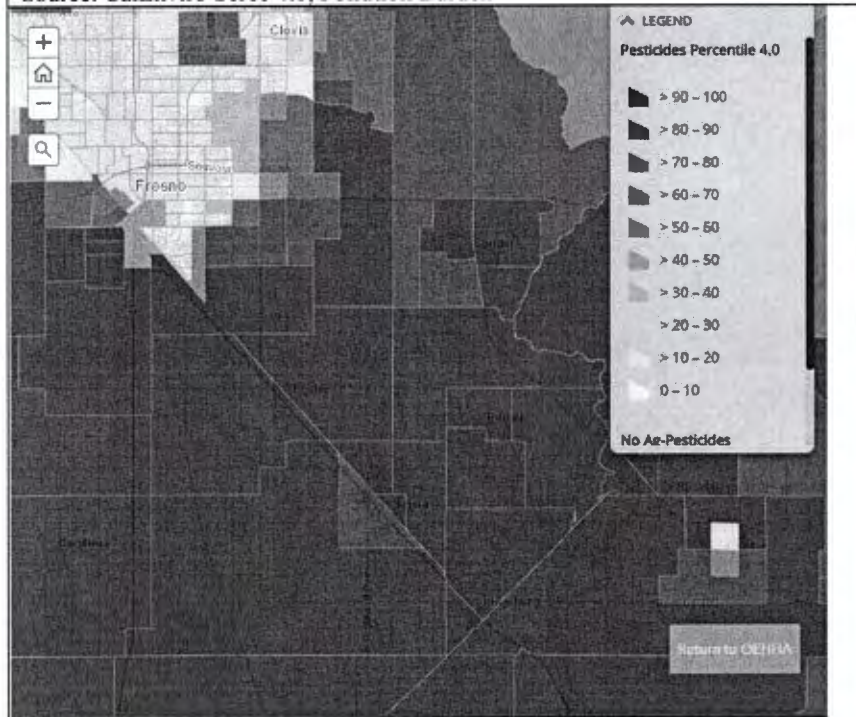
These communities have and will continue to advocate for environmental protections, as illustrated by the screening tool. As such, they will benefit from remaining together in one district as proposed in the Equitable Map Coalition's map.

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<sup>1</sup> CalEnviroScreen 3.0, available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>.



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pollution Burden



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pesticides Percentile 4.0

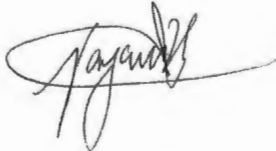
*Similarities in the type of crops farmworkers harvest*

Residents who live in the communities in proposed District 4 also work in and harvest similar crops, including crops that are different from those grown in West Fresno County. For example, citrus and fresh fruit are more commonly grown in the communities of proposed District 4 while West Fresno County is known for row crops like processing tomatoes, garlic, alfalfa, and cotton. Specifically, in the Orange Cove Irrigation District, 75% of farmland is citrus and only 16% nuts and grapes.<sup>2</sup> These differences are important because it impacts skills required to cultivate and harvest the different crops. In other words, the farmworkers in West Fresno County are more familiar working with row-crops while those in Sanger, Selma, and Parlier are more familiar with citrus.

### **Conclusion**

We urge that the Commission and Board of Supervisors take our comments about our communities of interest seriously and adopt the proposed Equity Maps Coalition's map that keeps the communities of **Calwa, Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities, and the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno** together within one district. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to the undersigned organizations.

Sincerely,



Nayamin Martinez, MPH  
Executive Director  
Central California Environmental Justice Network  
4991 E McKinley Ave. Ste. 109  
Fresno CA 93727  
[www.ccejn.org](http://www.ccejn.org)

---

<sup>2</sup> Orange Cove Irrigation District, available at:  
<http://www.orangecoveid.org/about%20the%20district.php#>.



October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To: Fresno County Board of Supervisors & the Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission

Re: Central Valley Partnership Strongly Supports Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map Proposal

The Central Valley Partnership (CVP) is a progressive network of labor unions, environmental organizations and community leadership with a mission to achieve social, racial, environmental and economic justice in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

Noting the history of exclusion, segregation and racism prevalent in the San Joaquin Valley, often resulting in the disenfranchisement of democratic voting for the region's residents, we strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle, so that voters from underrepresented groups, communities of color and immigrant backgrounds have an opportunity to participate fully in our electoral system of government and to have their voices heard at the ballot box.

We preface our comment letter with reference to new Census data, which confirms that significant demographic changes continue to transform Fresno County.

### Fresno County Board of Supervisors - 2020

Current Districts			Race/Ethnicity				
YEAR	Total Population	Year % Change	Latino %	White %	Black %	Asian %	% of Pop
1990	666,675		35.4%	50.7%	4.7%	8.1%	1.0%
2000	798,800	19.82%	44.0%	39.7%	5.0%	7.9%	3.4%
2010	930,450	16.48%	50.3%	32.7%	4.8%	9.3%	2.8%
2020	1,008,654	8.40%	53.6%	27.0%	4.4%	10.9%	2.7%

While the Latino population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, the opportunity for disadvantaged populations to elect candidates of their choice at the county supervisor level, has not kept pace. We see the Fair Maps Act of 2019 and the federal Voting Rights Act as opportunities and

requirements to do more than simply move a few census tracts between urban districts to equalize population.

After a thorough review of the district boundaries proposed by the Equity Map Coalition for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, the Central Valley Partnership is in full, strong support of the map. The proposed districts are contiguous, respect neighborhoods and cities as well as communities of interest, have easily identifiable boundaries, and are compact.

We particularly support the use of Highway 41 as an easily identifiable artificial boundary between rural communities of interest in Westside and Eastside Fresno County. The two distinct regions have significant differences in the areas of agricultural economic drivers, education access, and transportation. Each region deserves to have its own representative that will meet its challenges and uplift its needs.

Under the proposed maps, the entirety of the Westside is kept whole. We support this because it would strengthen the Westside community of interest by including together all the area served by West Hills Community College District and Westlands Water District, and all the areas connected by Fresno County Rural Transit's Westside routes. The Westside has been divided for too long.

In order to meet population requirements and in keeping with the use of easily identifiable boundaries, the proposed map uses Highway 99 as a boundary and includes City of Fresno communities west of the highway with the rural Westside communities. There is precedent for this in the current Supervisorial District map and neighborhoods west of Highway 99 are tied to some of the rural Westside communities via the many farmworkers and ag-related employees living in this area.

City of Fresno neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno and Calwa are put in a proposed district with the rural Eastside cities in current Supervisorial District Four. We support this because these neighborhoods and cities together form a community of interest and are bound together by work, family, shared culture and religion, and socioeconomics. Additionally, together, they all face similar challenges around educational attainment, housing, and healthcare access. District Four includes all the rural towns connected by Fresno County Rural Transit's Eastside routes.

We support keeping the City of Clovis whole and together, anchoring its own supervisorial district and including areas with new growth along with the foothill and mountain areas. Willow Avenue serves as the border between the City of Fresno and the City of Clovis and should also serve as an easily identifiable artificial boundary between Supervisorial District Two and District Five, respectively.

The proposed districts for Central and North City of Fresno maintain the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and respects the ethnic communities of interest in the city's urban core. The Central Supervisorial District Three is largely preserved, along with well-established and historic neighborhoods of working class and low-income families. The North Fresno Supervisorial District Two is also largely preserved and uses well understood natural and artificial boundaries like the San Joaquin River, Highway 99, Shaw and Ashlan Avenues.

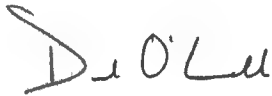
The latest Census data shows the great diversity and significant growth of Fresno County. That diversity is represented in the map proposed by the Equity Map Coalition, which creates three effective Latino majority districts, while also ensuring our Supervisors represent distinct regions and communities of



interest within our county. These proposed districts will result in policy, programmatic, and funding decisions that will have a positive and equitable impact for all residents of Fresno County.

We strongly support these proposed districts and urge your serious consideration and ultimate support for this Equity Coalition map.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a distinct "O'Connell" following.

**Daniel O'Connell**  
**Executive Director**  
**Central Valley Partnership**

**From:** [Olivia Seideman](#)  
**To:** [Fresno County 2021 Redistricting](#)  
**Cc:** [Mariana Alvarenga](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Equitable Map Coalition's Proposed Map and COIs  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 05, 2021 11:05:34 AM  
**Attachments:** [Fresno Redistricting COIs.pdf](#)  
[Letter of Support for Equitable Map LCJA 10052021.pdf](#)

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**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

Hello,

My name is Olivia Seideman and I work for Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, a community-based organization that works with communities in Lanare, Cantua Creek/El Porvenir, and Tombstone in Fresno County.

Attached to this email is our letter of support for the Equitable Map Coalition's proposed map, as well as 29 COI maps from residents in the communities of Lanare and Cantua Creek/El Porvenir. These COIs reflect community support for the EMC's proposed map as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Olivia Seideman

--

**Olivia Seideman** (she/her)  
*Civic Engagement Coordinator*  
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
2210 San Joaquin St, Fresno, CA 93721  
[oseideman@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:oseideman@leadershipcounsel.org) | [leadershipcounsel.org](http://leadershipcounsel.org)  
Cell: (510) 410-0151



October 5, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov

To: Fresno County Board of Supervisors & the County's Advisory Redistricting Commission

Re: Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability's Strong Support for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map Proposal

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability works alongside low-income communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley and the Eastern Coachella Valley. As is most relevant here, we work with community leaders across Fresno City and in Lanare, Tombstone, and Cantua Creek to advocate for local, regional and state government entities to address their community's needs for the basic elements that make up a safe and healthy community, including safe and affordable drinking water, affordable housing, effective and safe transportation, efficient and affordable energy, green spaces, and clean air.

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability is in strong support of the Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)'s map proposal, as we believe that it accurately reflects the demographic change of Fresno County between 2011 and 2021. After holding multiple community meetings focused on redistricting in the communities of Cantua Creek/El Porvenir and Lanare in the western part of the county and Tombstone in the eastern region, we also support the EMC's map proposal because it preserves the communities of interest articulated by many residents in these communities. Included with this letter are 25 COIs that reflect this.

Community members in Lanare and Cantua Creek/El Porvenir would like to be in the same district, as they face similar issues in the Western part of the county around land use, housing, water, agriculture, and more. Community members in Tombstone do not want to be in the same district as the western communities, as they face different challenges around water and agriculture and feel that a district that includes more eastern communities, rather than encompassing both eastern and western parts of the county (as the map drawn in 2011 does) would allow them to be in a district with other communities with similar interests.

EMC's map is fair, research-based, meets all federal and state legal requirements, and provides an opportunity for fair representation.



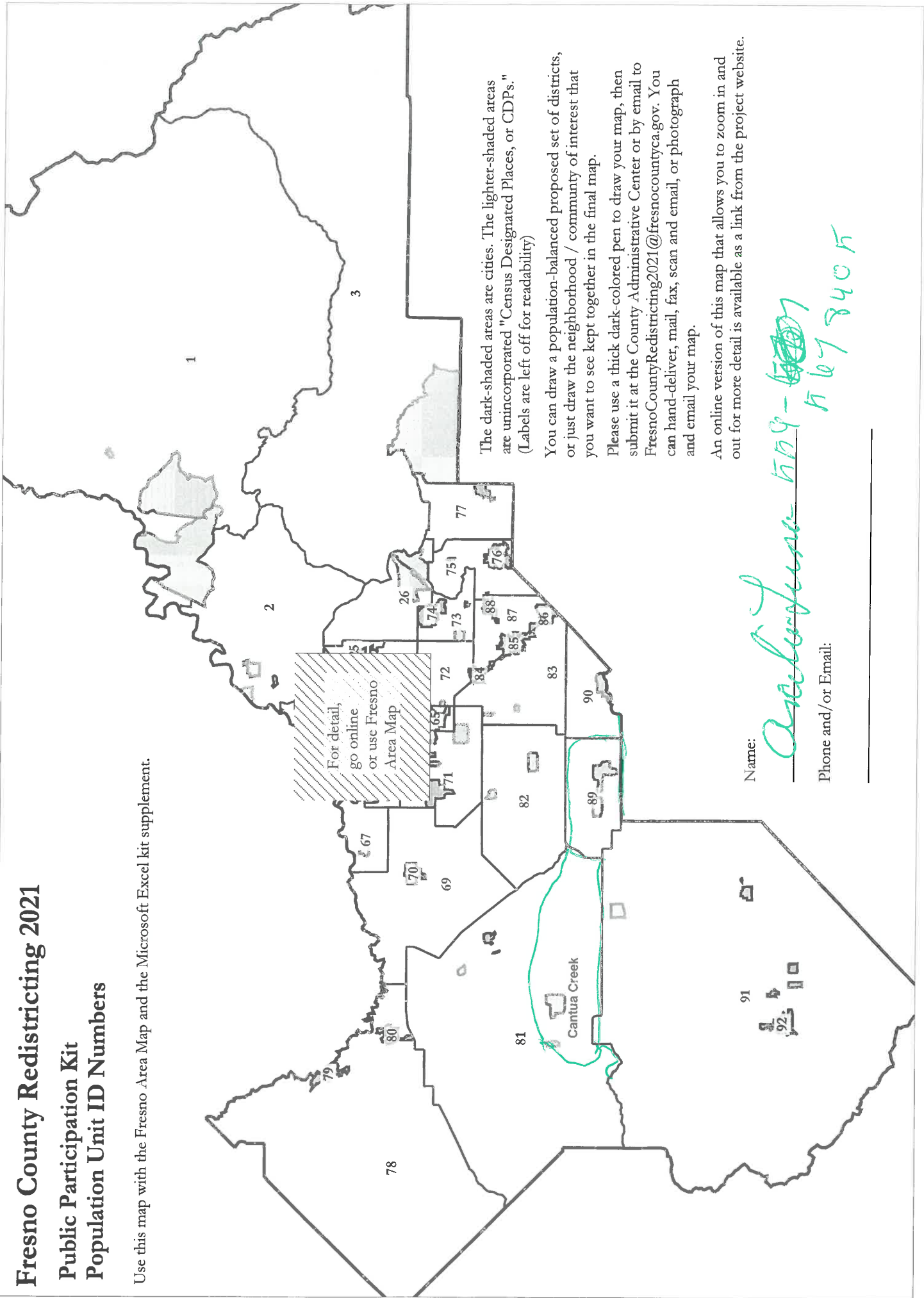
Best,  
Olivia Seideman  
Civic Engagement Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Public Participation Kit

### Population Unit ID Numbers

Use this map with the Fresno Area Map and the Microsoft Excel kit supplement.



The dark-shaded areas are cities. The lighter-shaded areas are unincorporated "Census Designated Places, or CDPs." (Labels are left off for readability)

You can draw a population-balanced proposed set of districts, or just draw the neighborhood / community of interest that you want to see kept together in the final map.

Please use a thick dark-colored pen to draw your map, then submit it at the County Administrative Center or by email to FresnoCountyRedistricting2021@fresnocountyca.gov. You can hand-deliver, mail, fax, scan and email, or photograph and email your map.

An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the project website.

Name: Andreyana 509-~~509~~ 8405

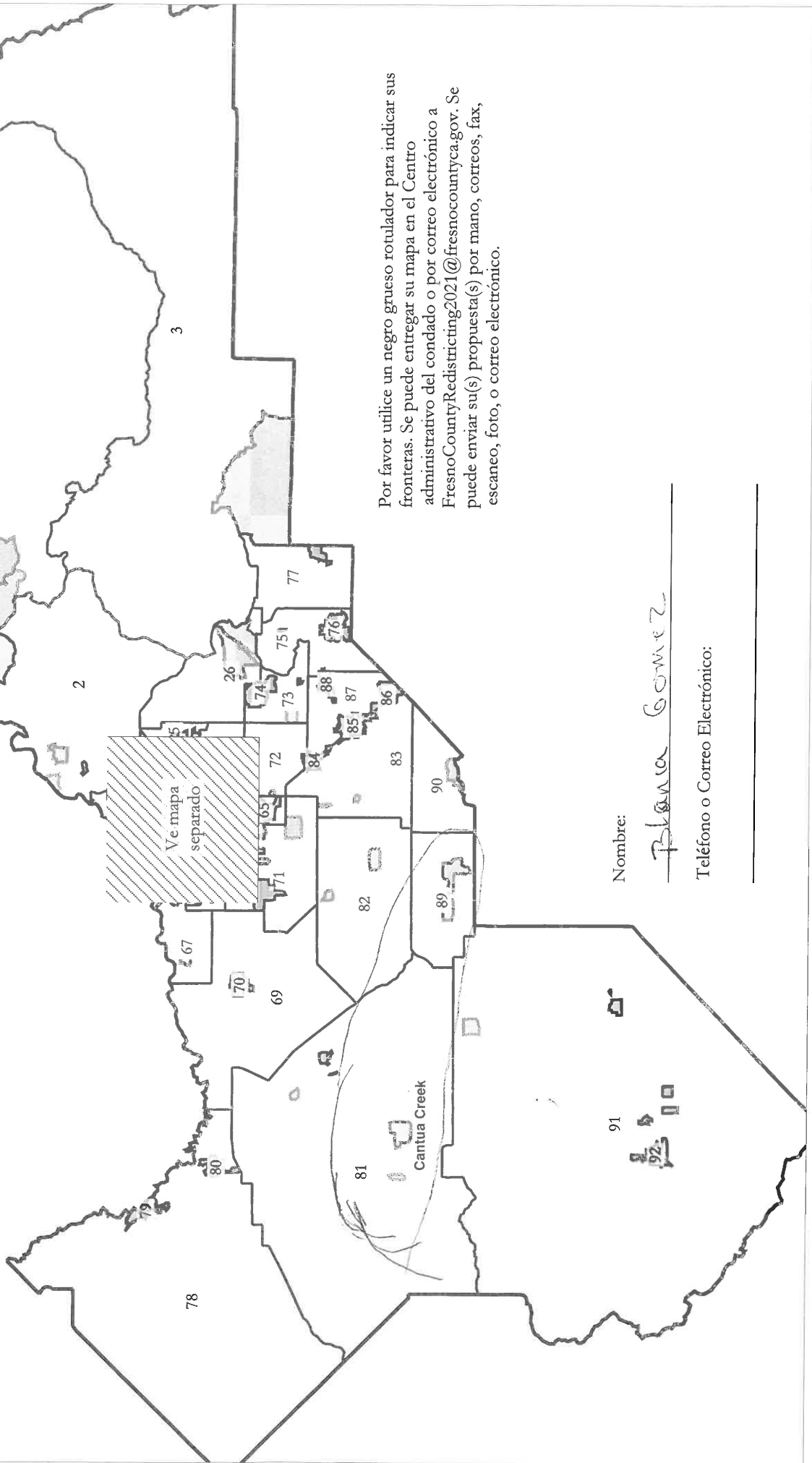
Phone and/or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Unidades de Población

Usa este mapa con Microsoft Excel.

Una versión de este mapa que le permite magnificar y ver más detalle está disponible en el sitio del condado.



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Nombre:

Blanca Gomez

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

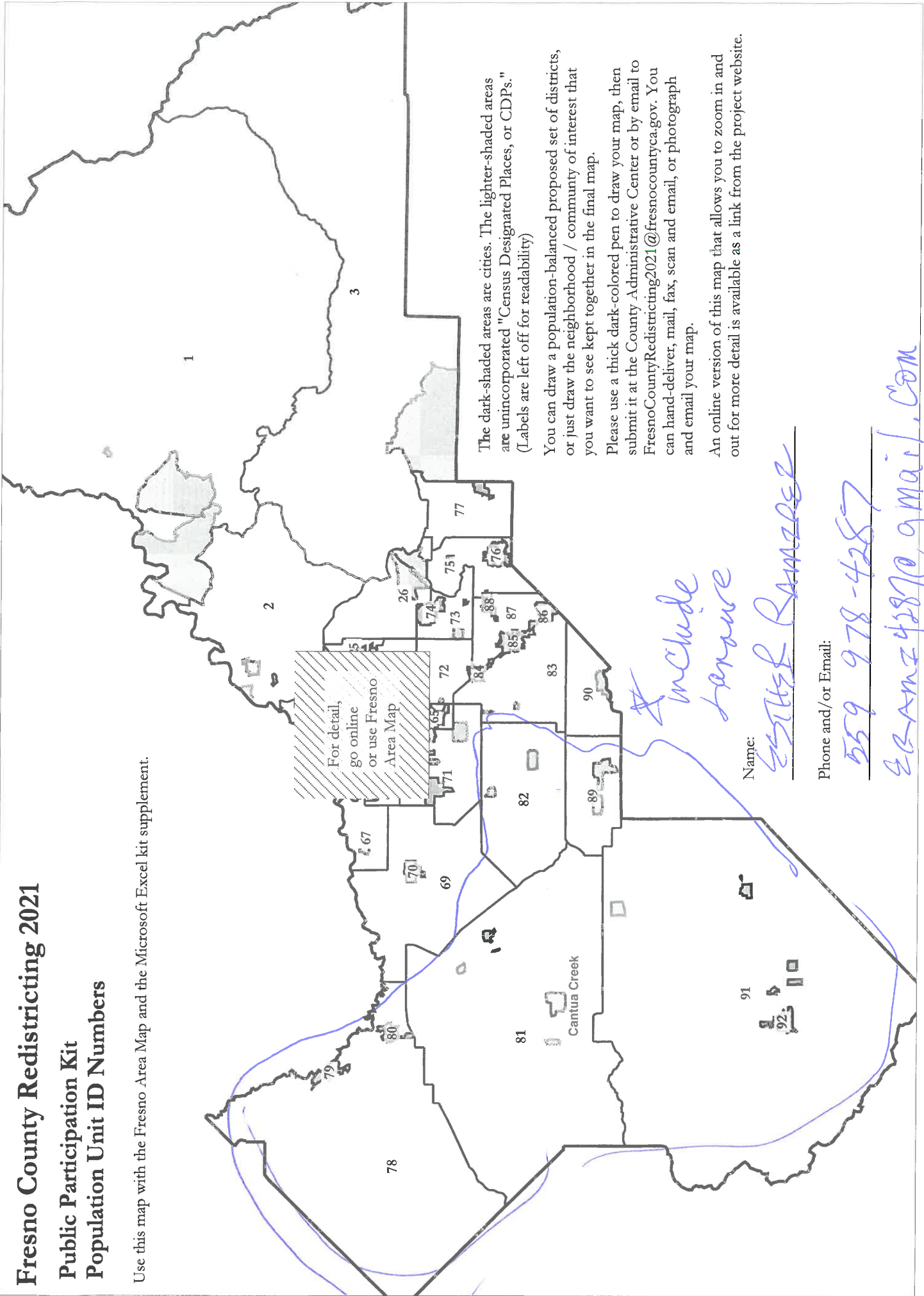
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# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Public Participation Kit

### Population Unit ID Numbers

Use this map with the Fresno Area Map and the Microsoft Excel kit supplement.



The dark-shaded areas are cities. The lighter-shaded areas are unincorporated "Census Designated Places, or CDPs." (Labels are left off for readability)

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An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the project website.

*Include Larance*

Name:

*ESTEBAN RAMIREZ*

Phone and/or Email:

*559 978-4287*

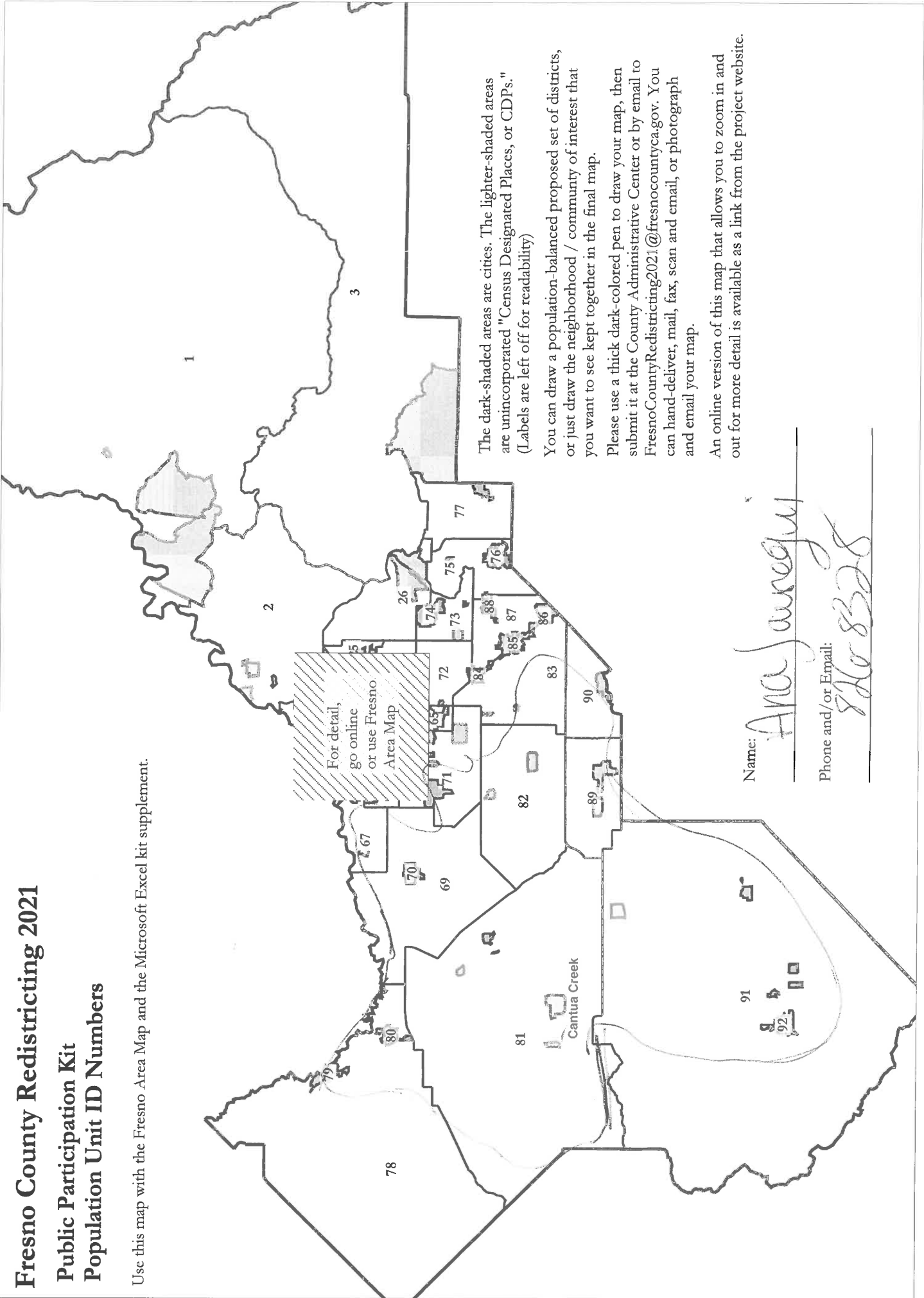
*estebanramirez@gmail.com*

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Public Participation Kit

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Name: Ara Jaregui  
 Phone and/or Email: 876 8328

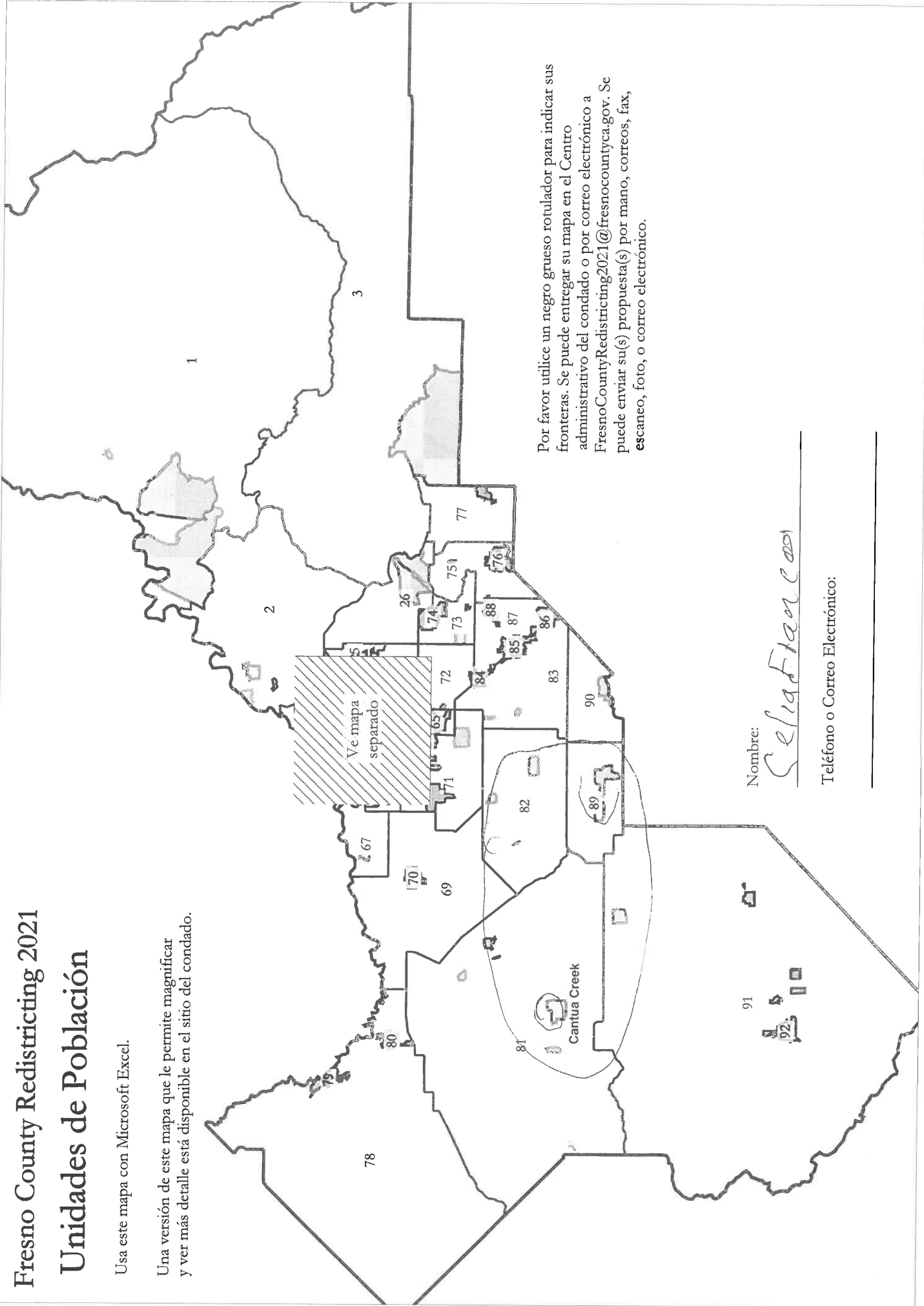


# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Unidades de Población

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Nombre:

*Selva Flores*

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

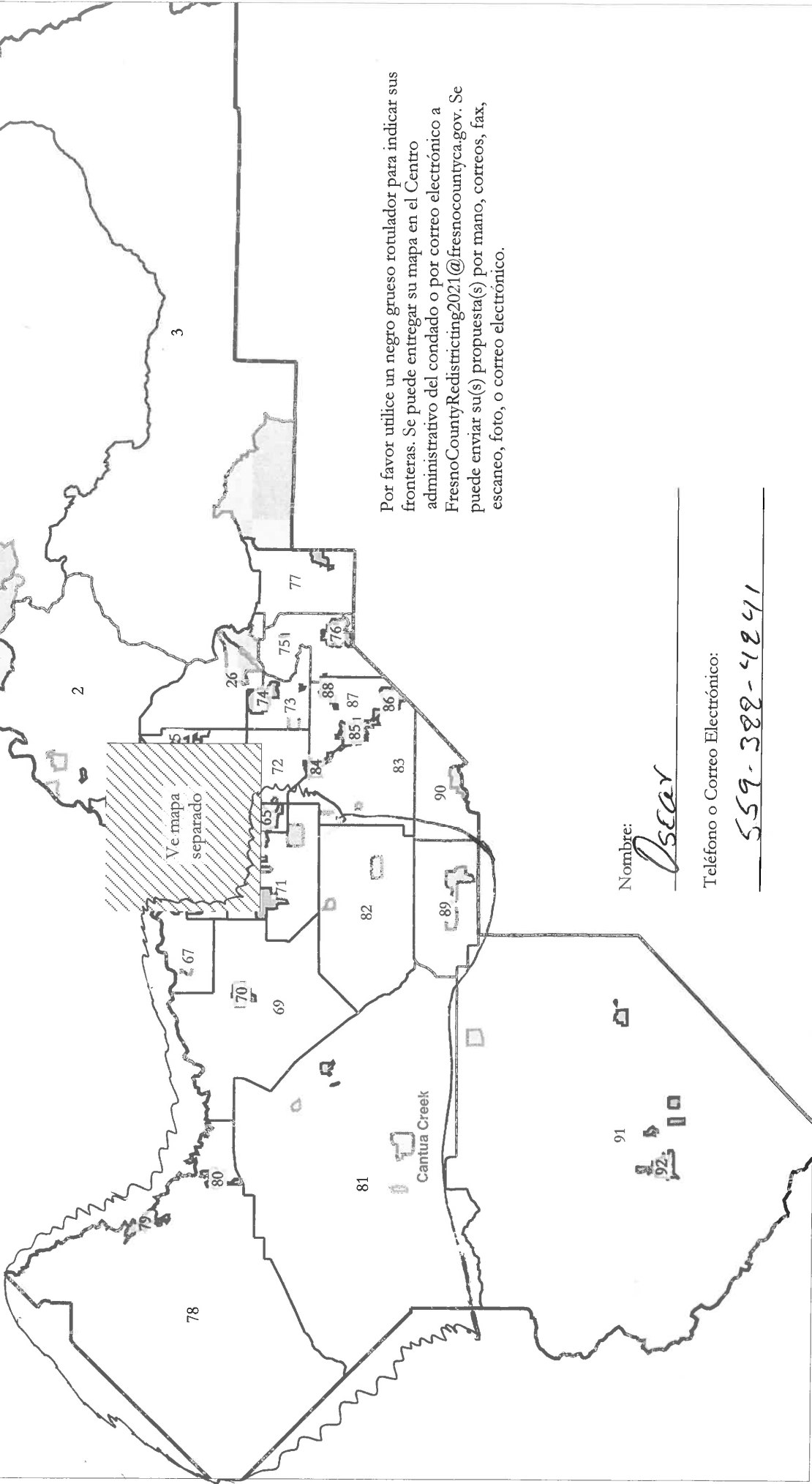
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# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

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Nombre:

*Oscar*

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

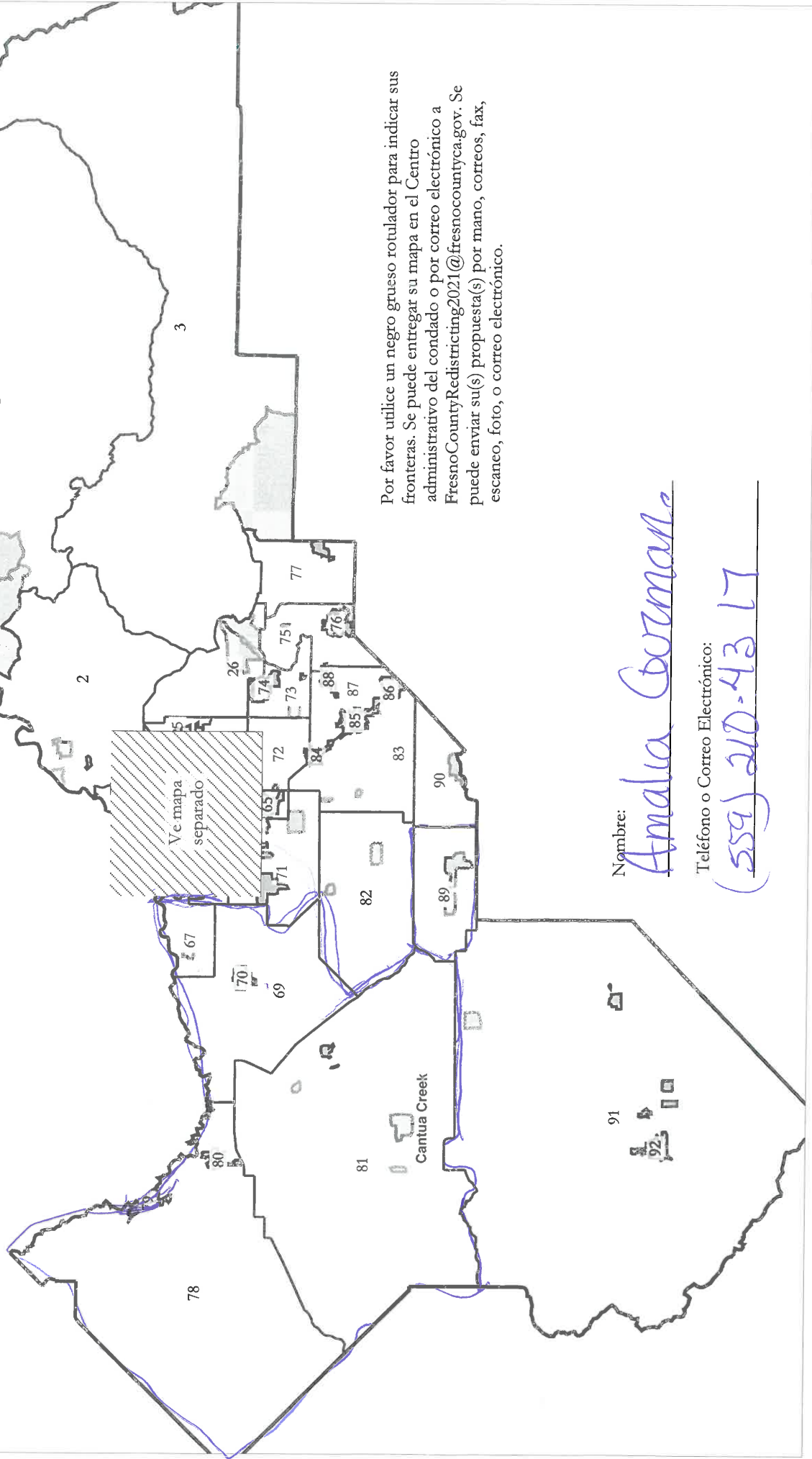
*559-388-4241*

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

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Nombre:

*Amalia Coronado*

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

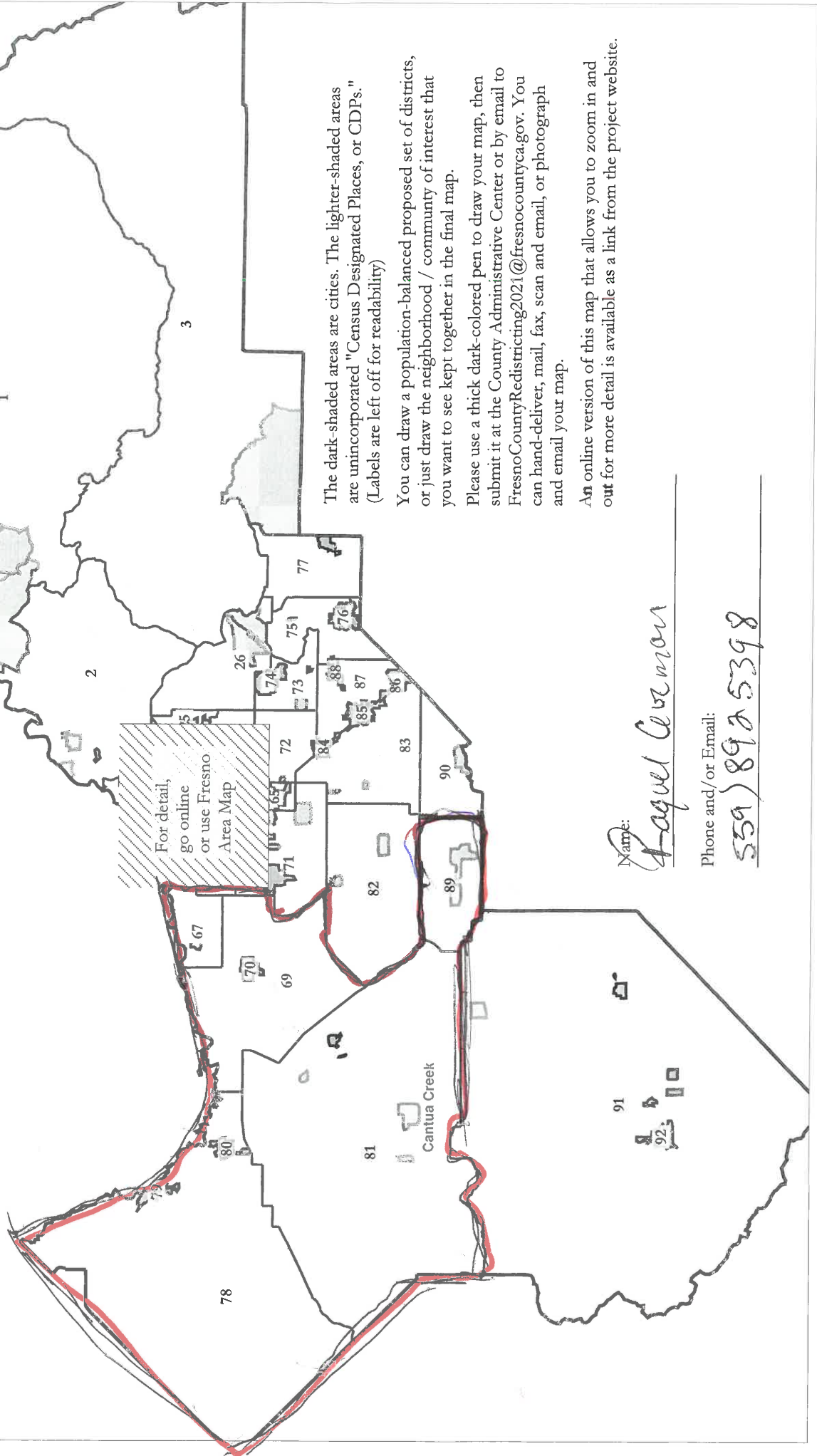
*(559) 210-4317*

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Public Participation Kit

### Population Unit ID Numbers

Use this map with the Fresno Area Map and the Microsoft Excel kit supplement.



Name: Raquel Cervan

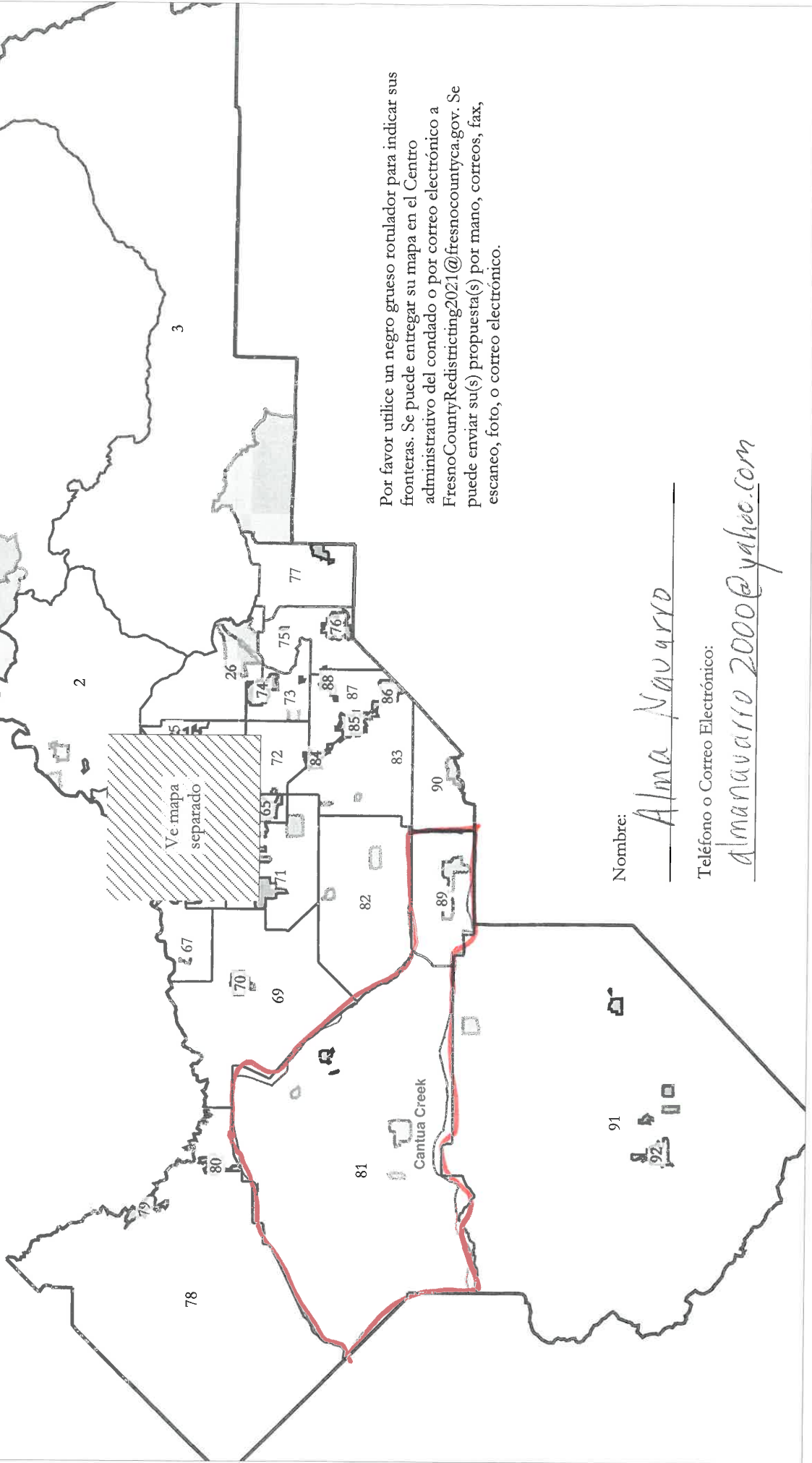
Phone and/or Email: 559) 892 5398

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Unidades de Población

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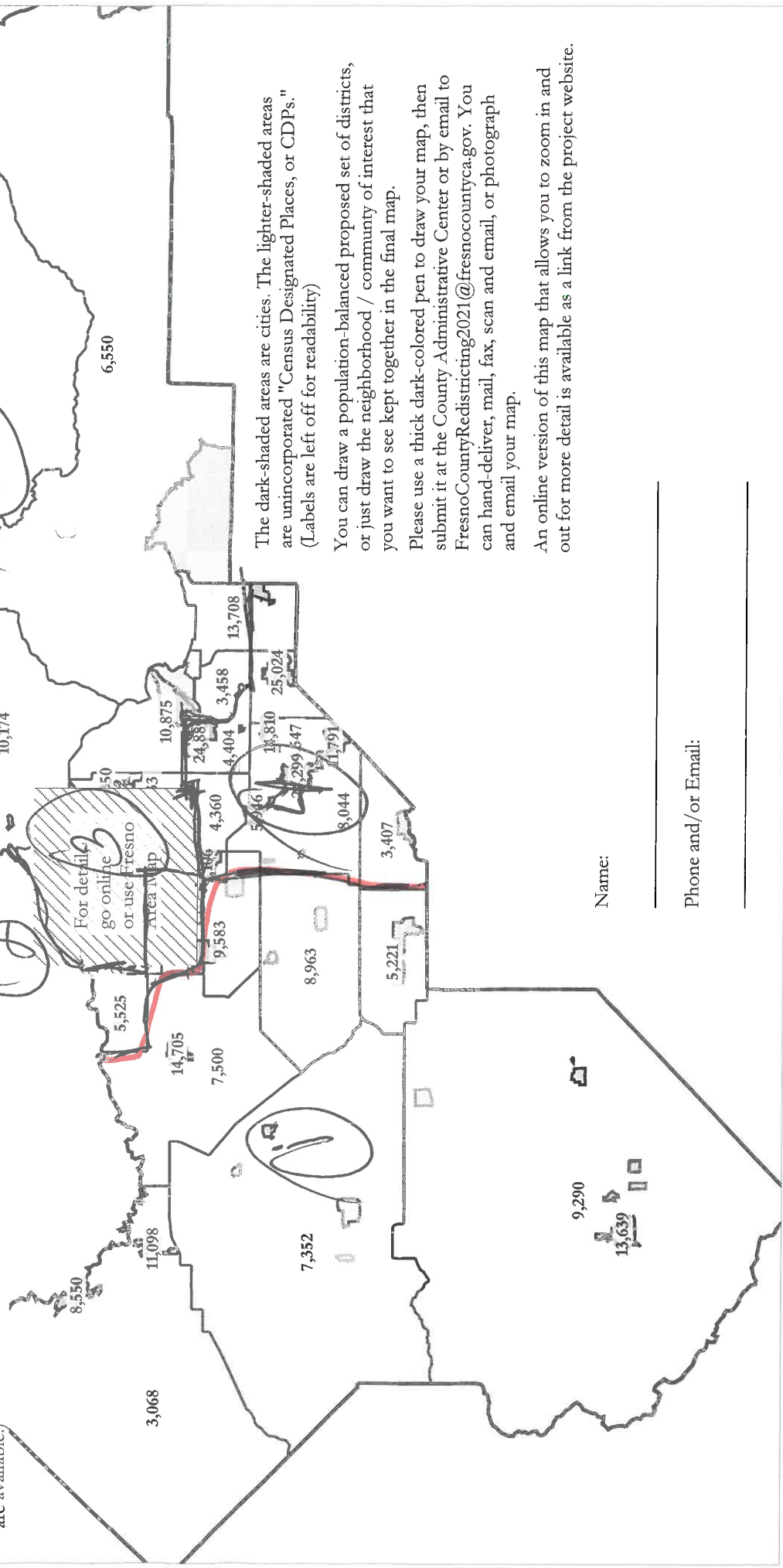
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Nombre: Alma Navarro  
Teléfono o Correo Electrónico: almanavarr0200@yahoo.com

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021 Public Participation Kit Total Population by Population Unit

Each number indicates the total population of that "population unit" area. Each district must have essentially equal population. According to current population estimates, the population of each of the five districts must be close to 200,500, with no more than a 20,000 difference between the largest and smallest. (Final numbers may differ once the official 2020 Census data are available.)

*Alberto Zancher*  
*(559) 212-0394*



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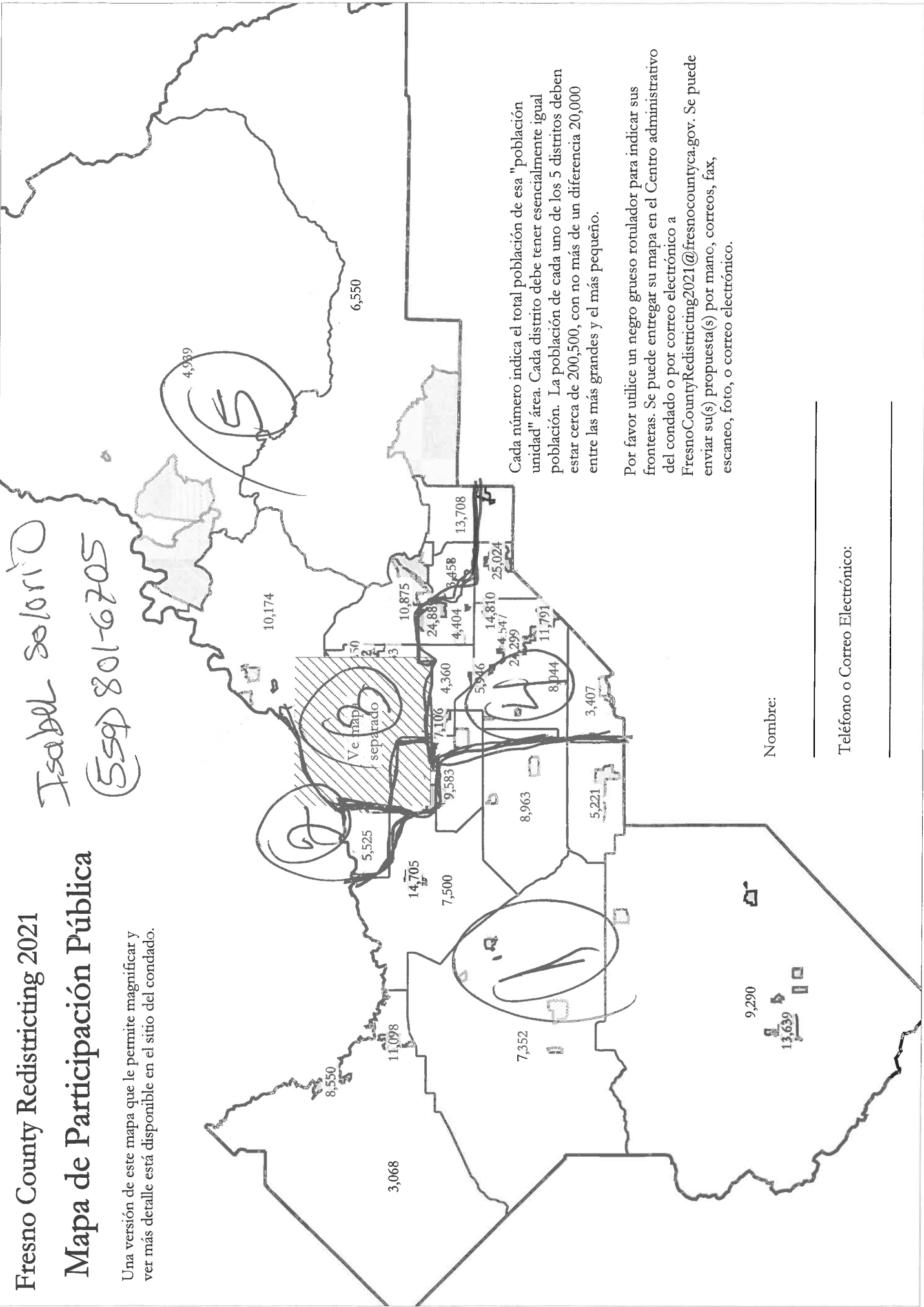
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Mapa de Participación Pública

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Cada número indica el total población de esa "población unidad" área. Cada distrito debe tener esencialmente igual población. La población de cada uno de los 5 distritos deben estar cerca de 200,500, con no más de un diferencia 20,000 entre las más grandes y el más pequeño.

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Nombre:

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

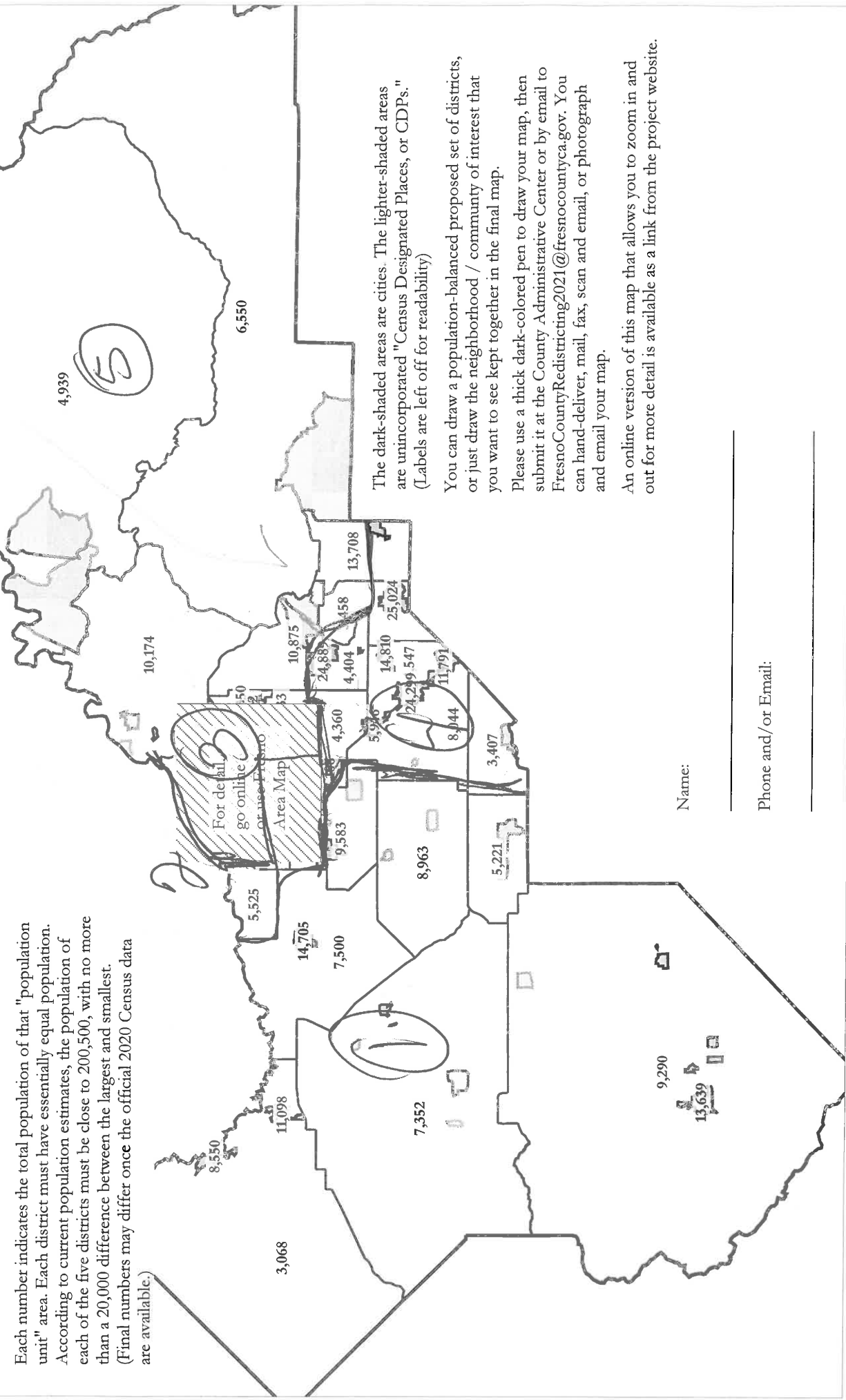
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*Maria Luisa Martinez*  
*(559) 867-3230*



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

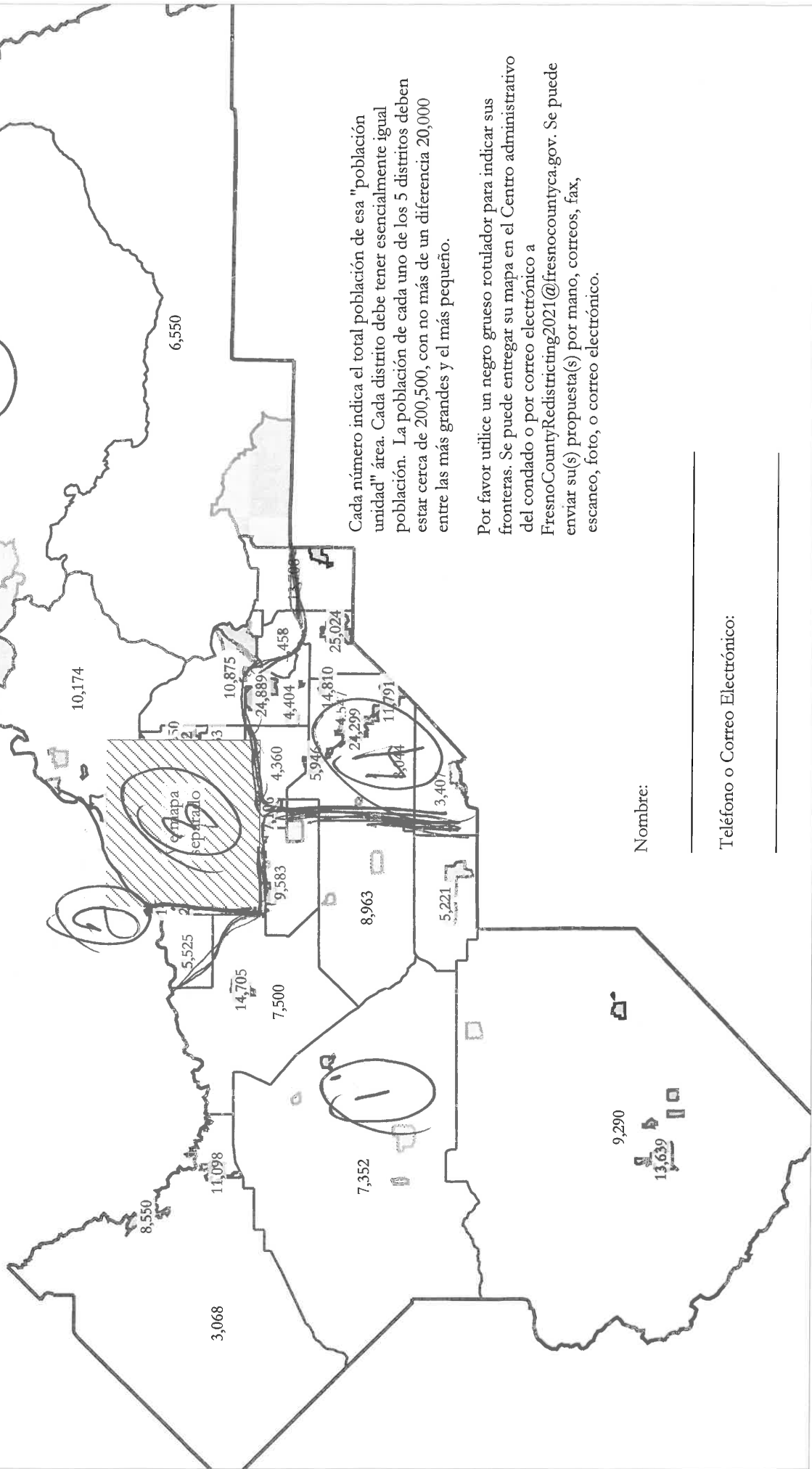


# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Mapa de Participación Pública

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Gerardo Solari  
(559) 867-8185



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Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

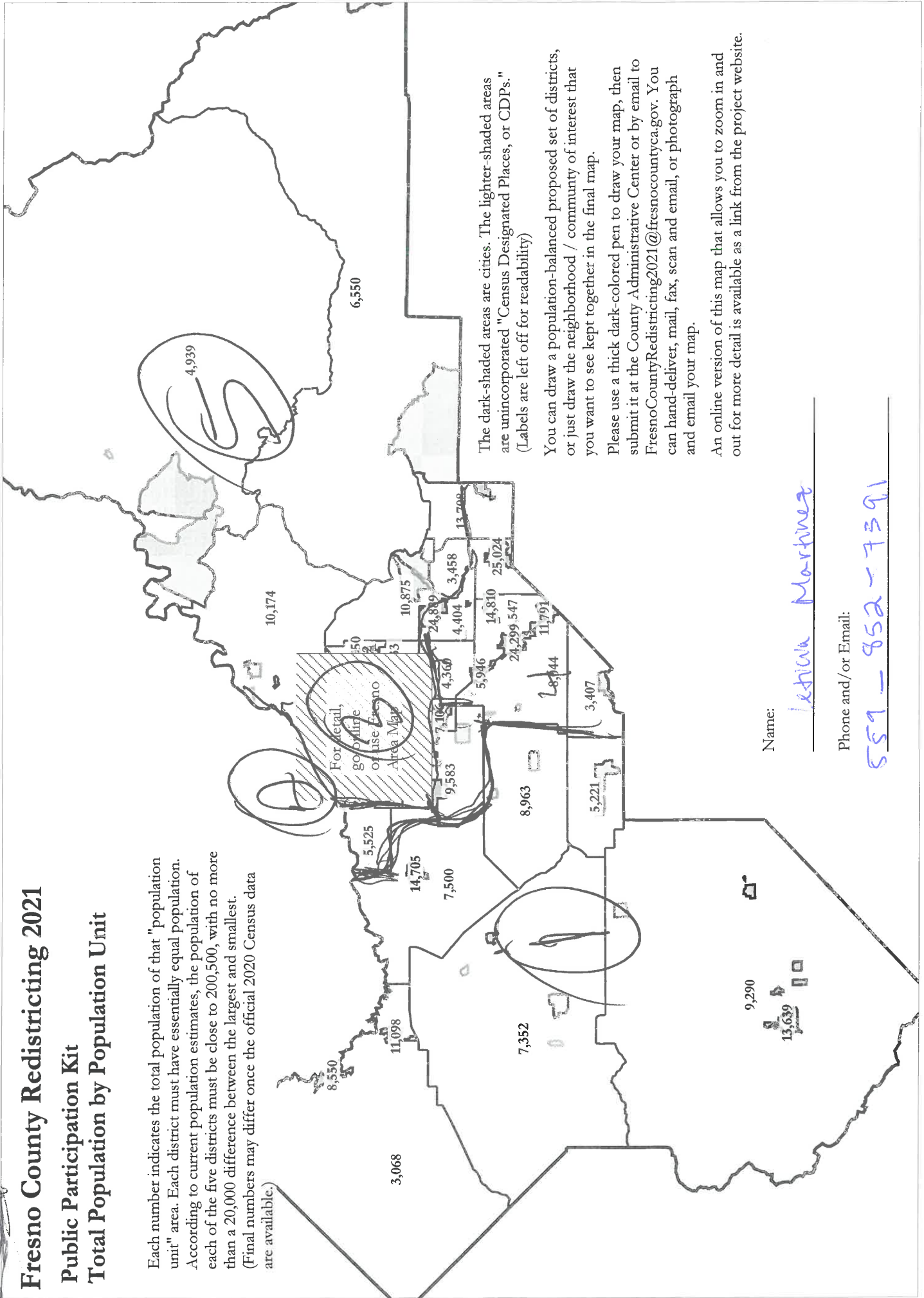
Teléfono o Correo Electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name:

Leticia Martinez

Phone and/or Email:

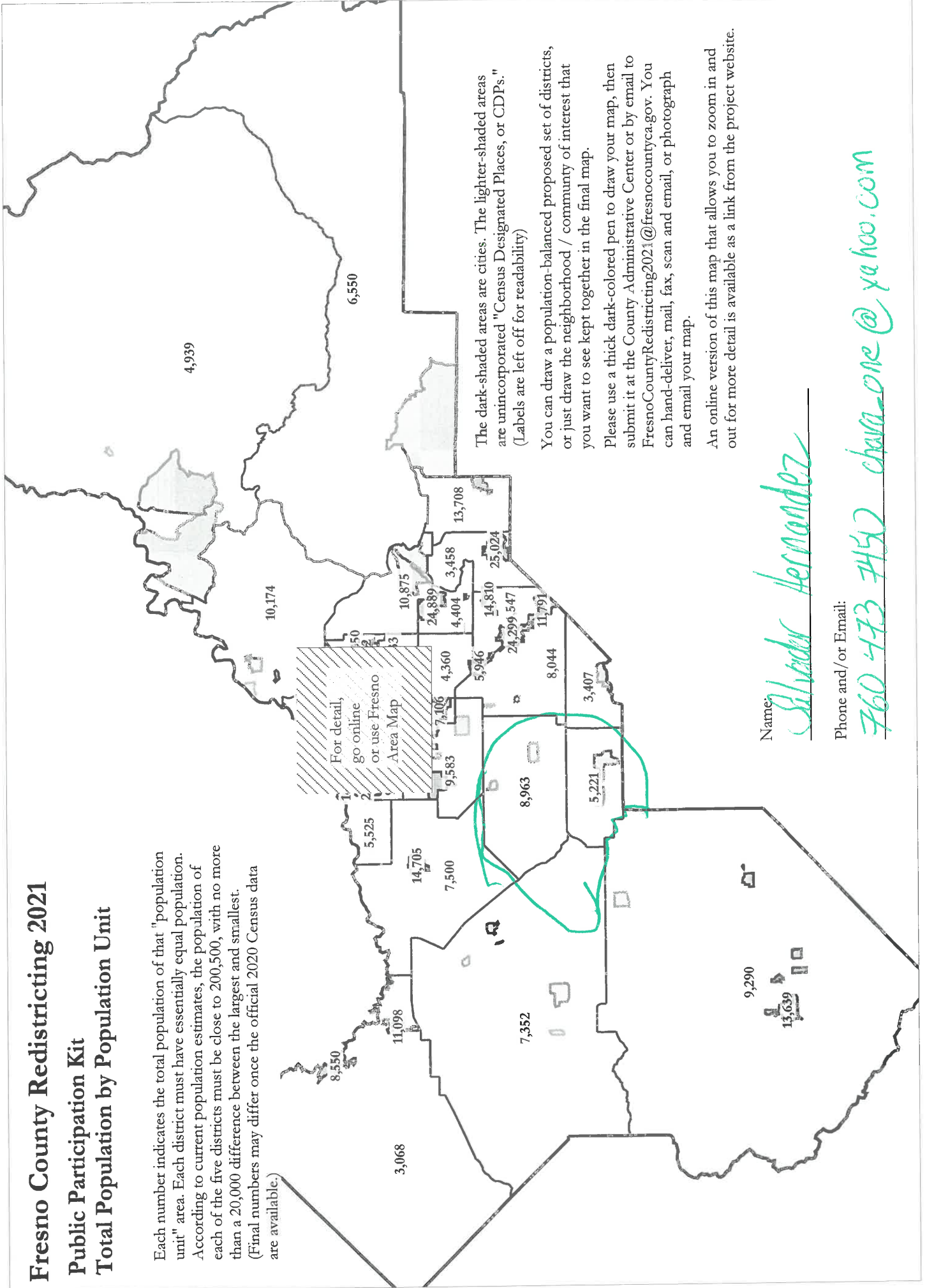
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Name: Salvador Hernandez

Phone and/or Email:

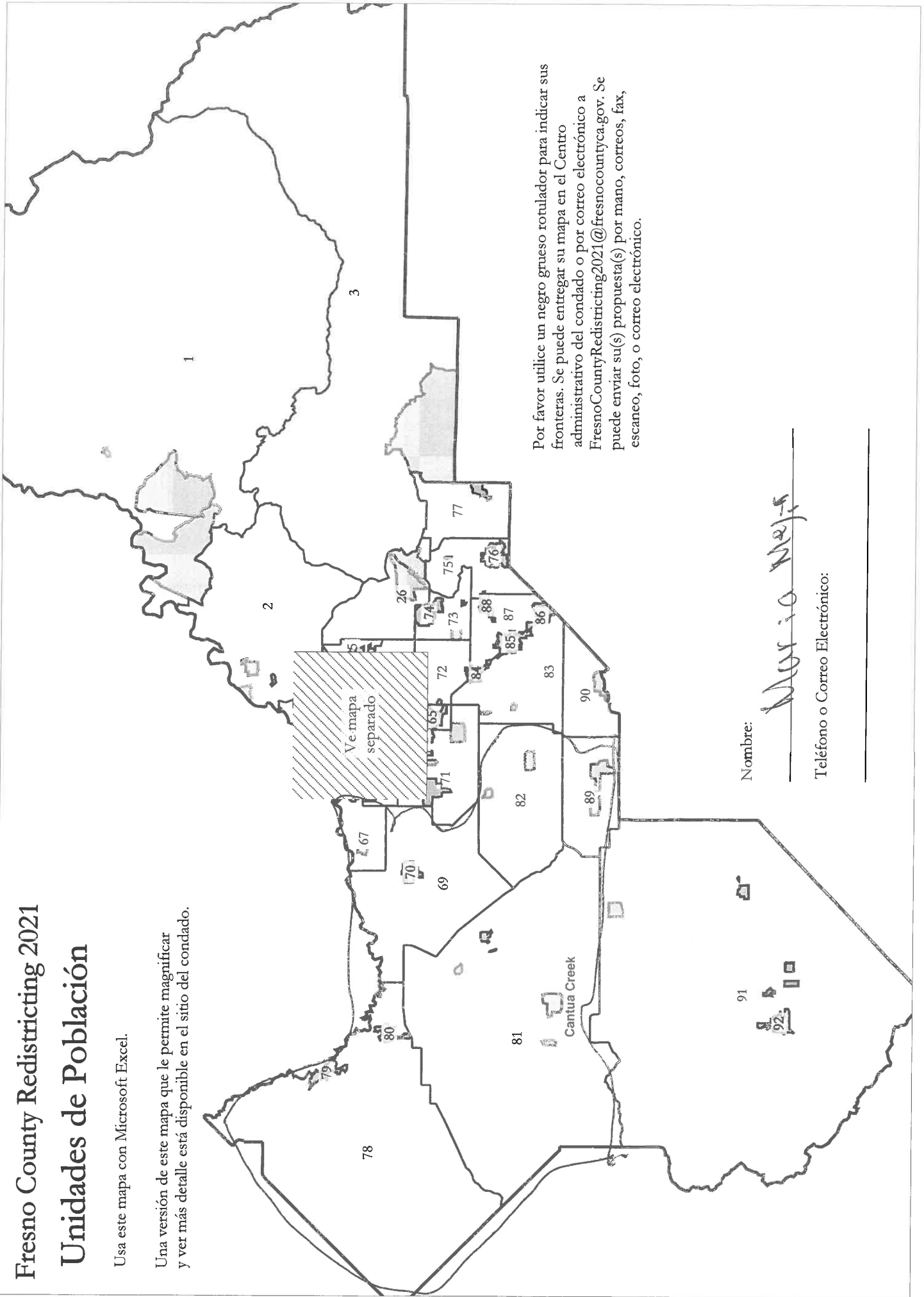
760 473 7450 chava\_one@yahoo.com

# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Unidades de Población

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Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

*Maria Mejia*

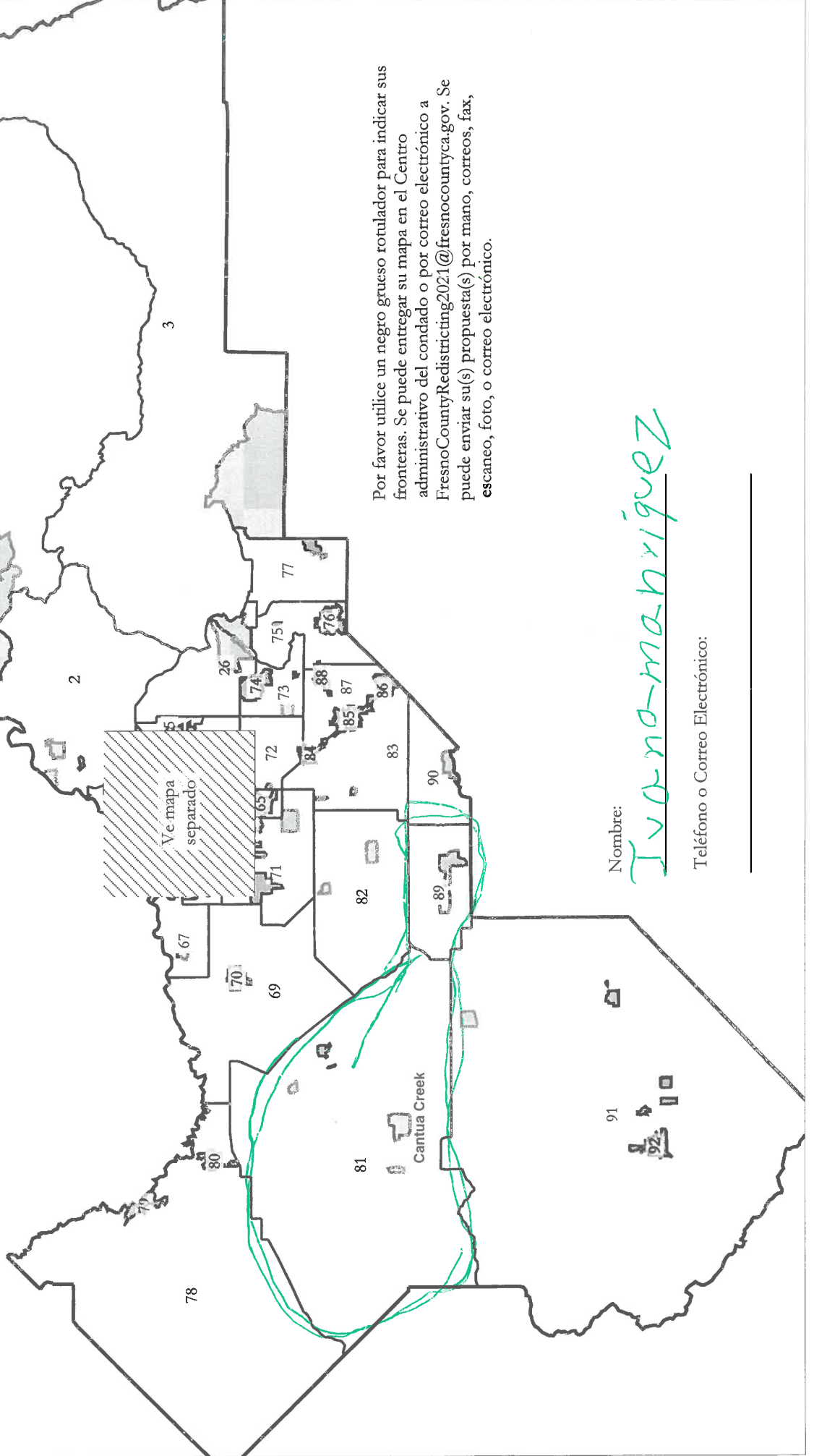
Teléfono o Correo Electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_

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Nombre:

*Ivano-mañriquez*

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

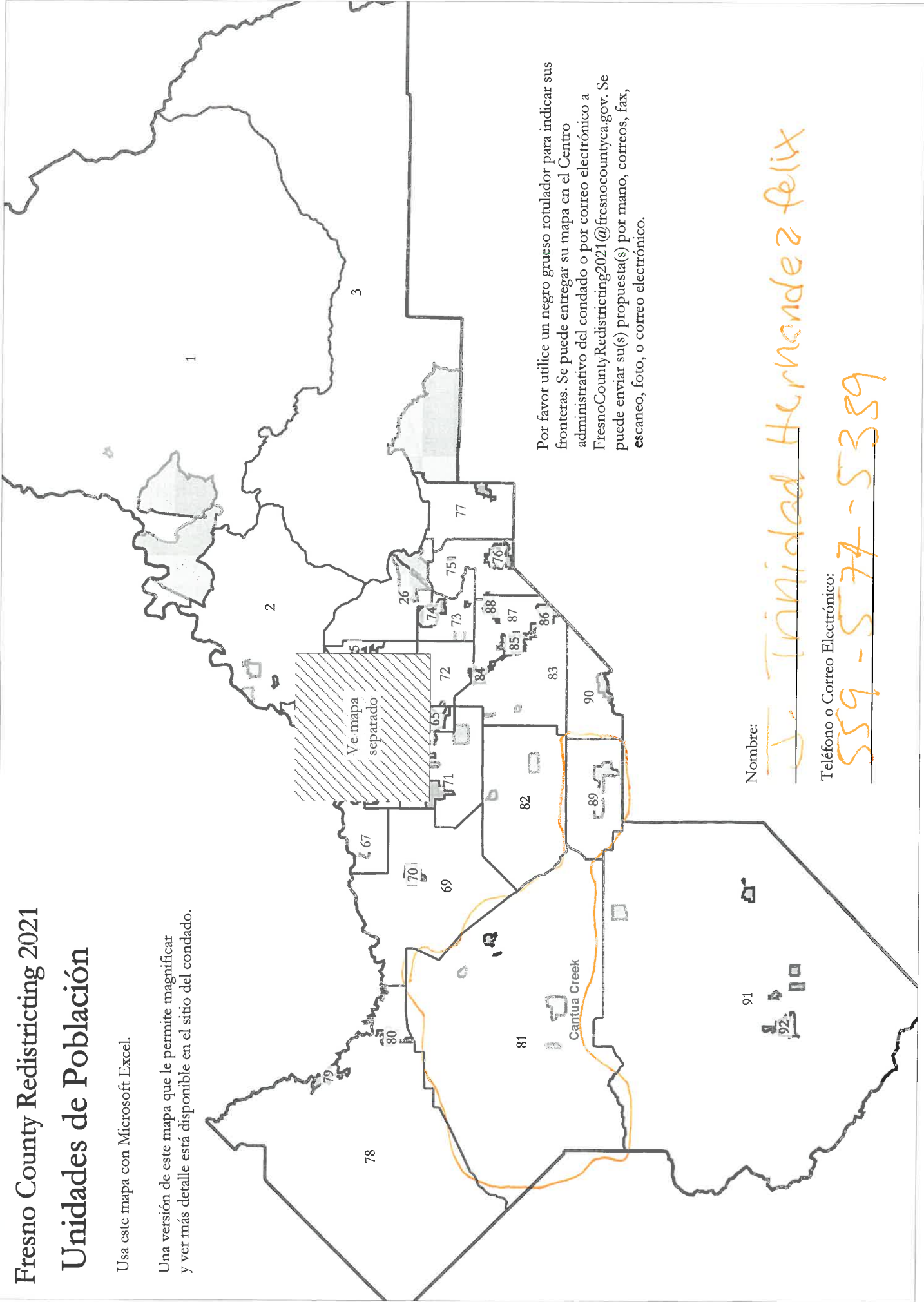
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Nombre:

J. Trinidad Hernandez Felix

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

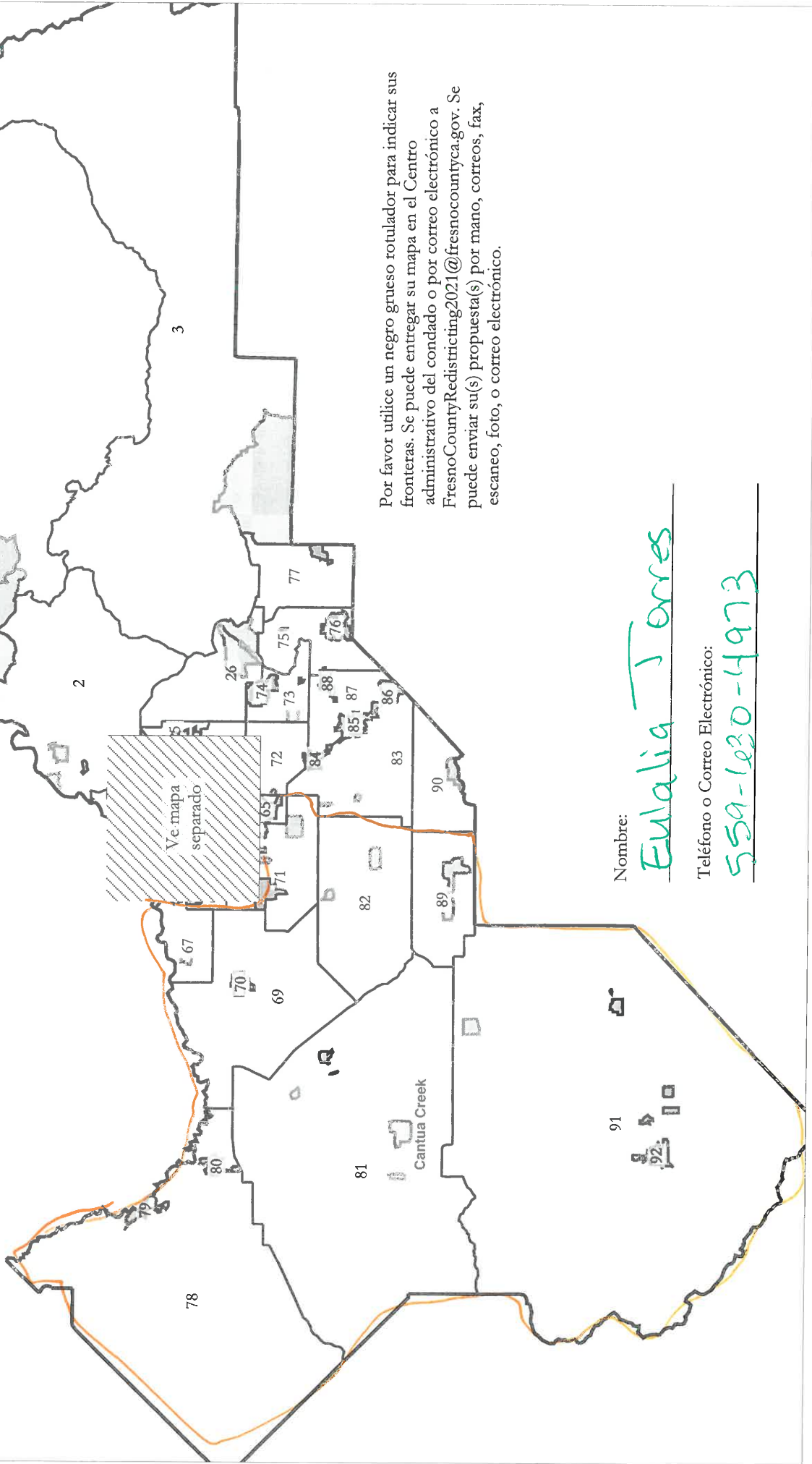
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Nombre:

Eulalia Torres

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

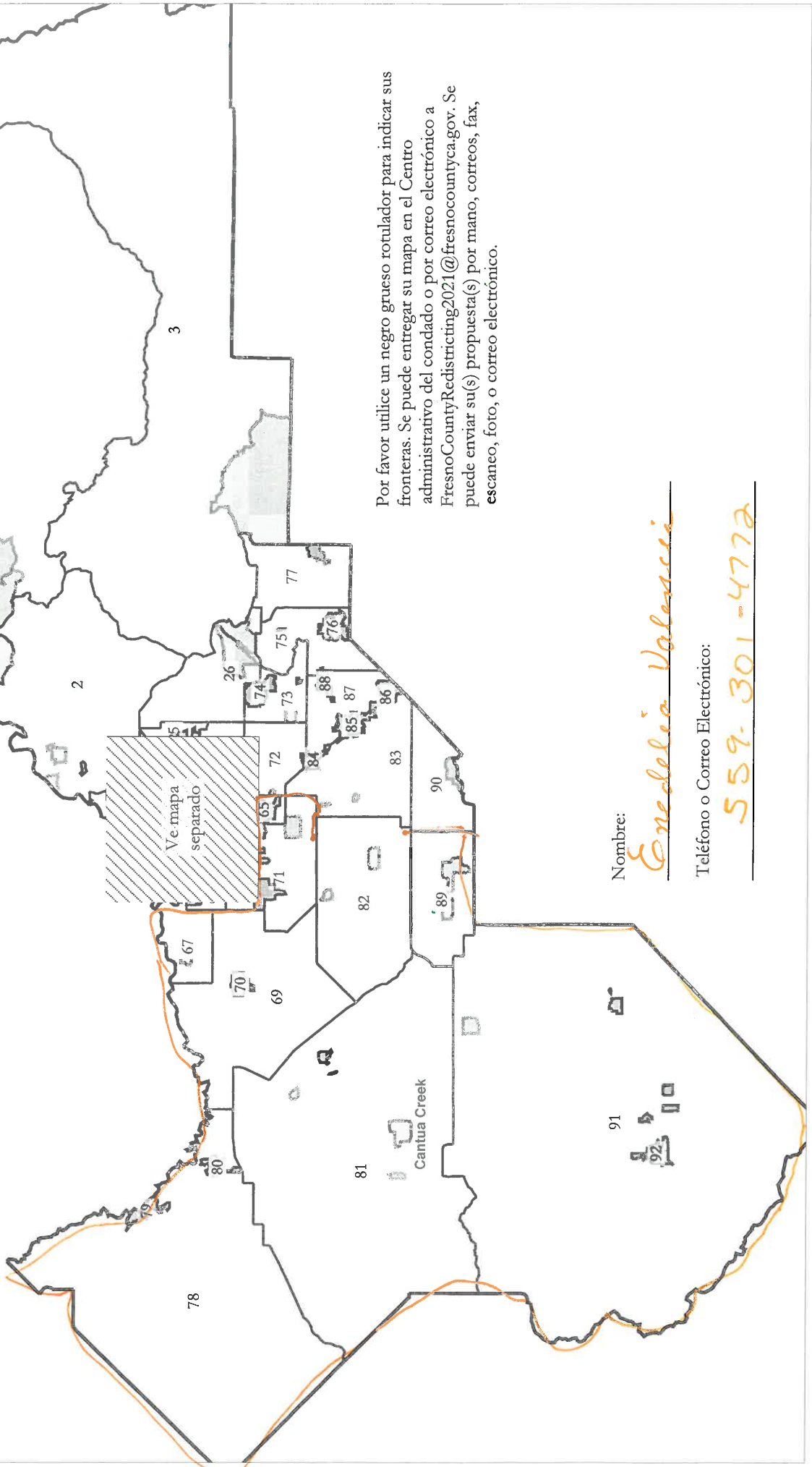
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Nombre:

Eneledia Valencia

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

559-301-4772

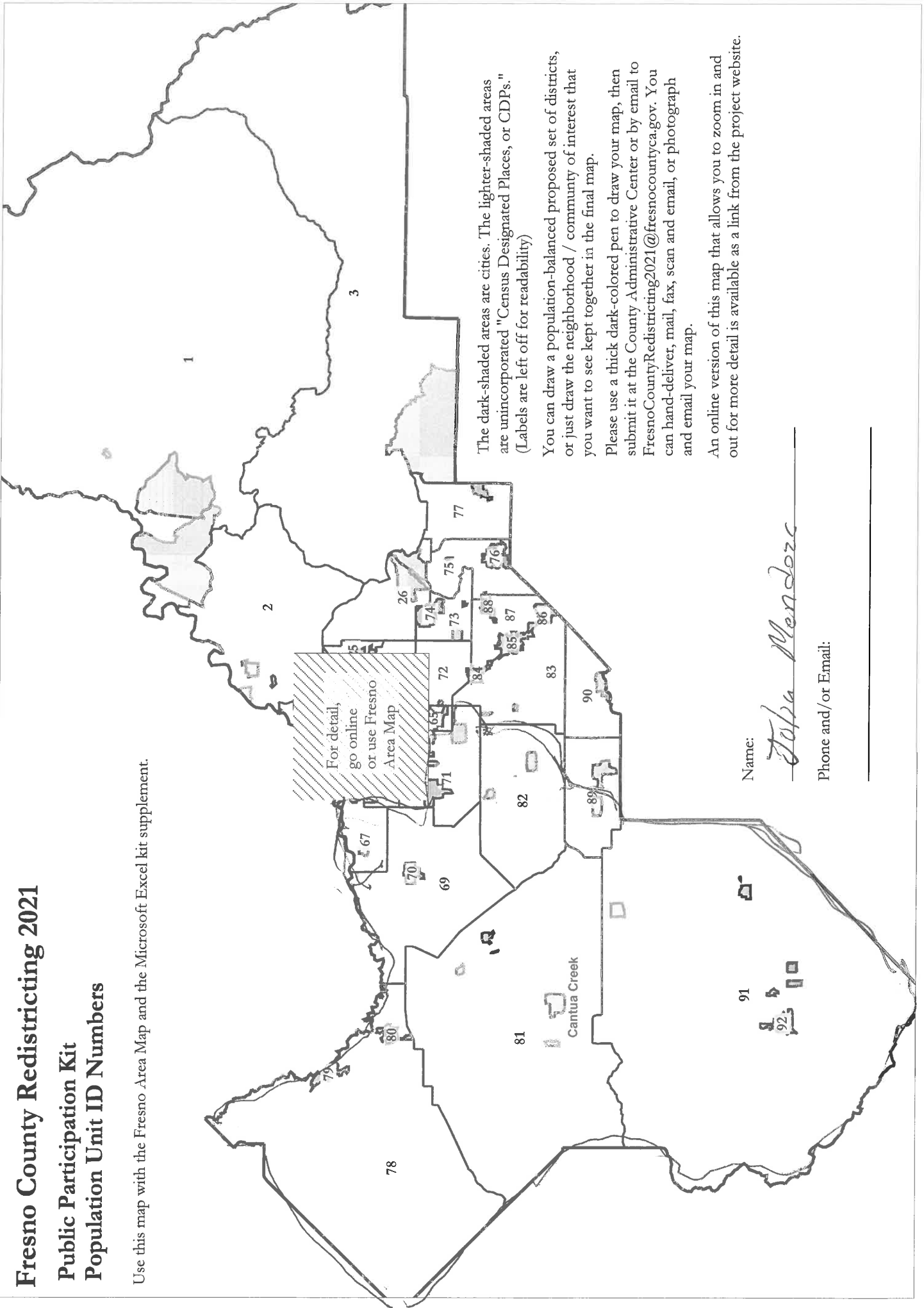


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Name:

*Talia Mendez*

Phone and/or Email:

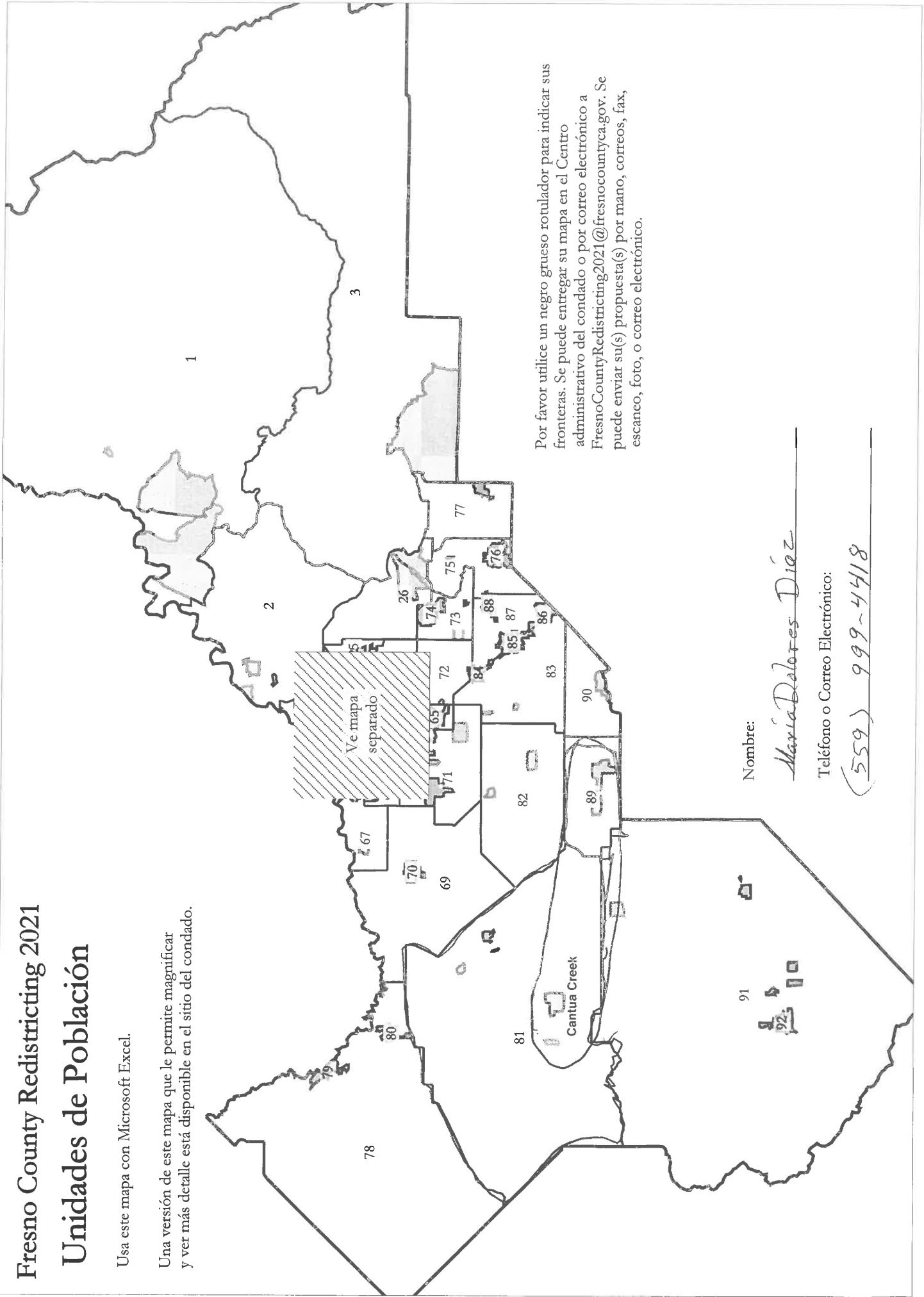
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Nombre:

*María Dolores Díaz*

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

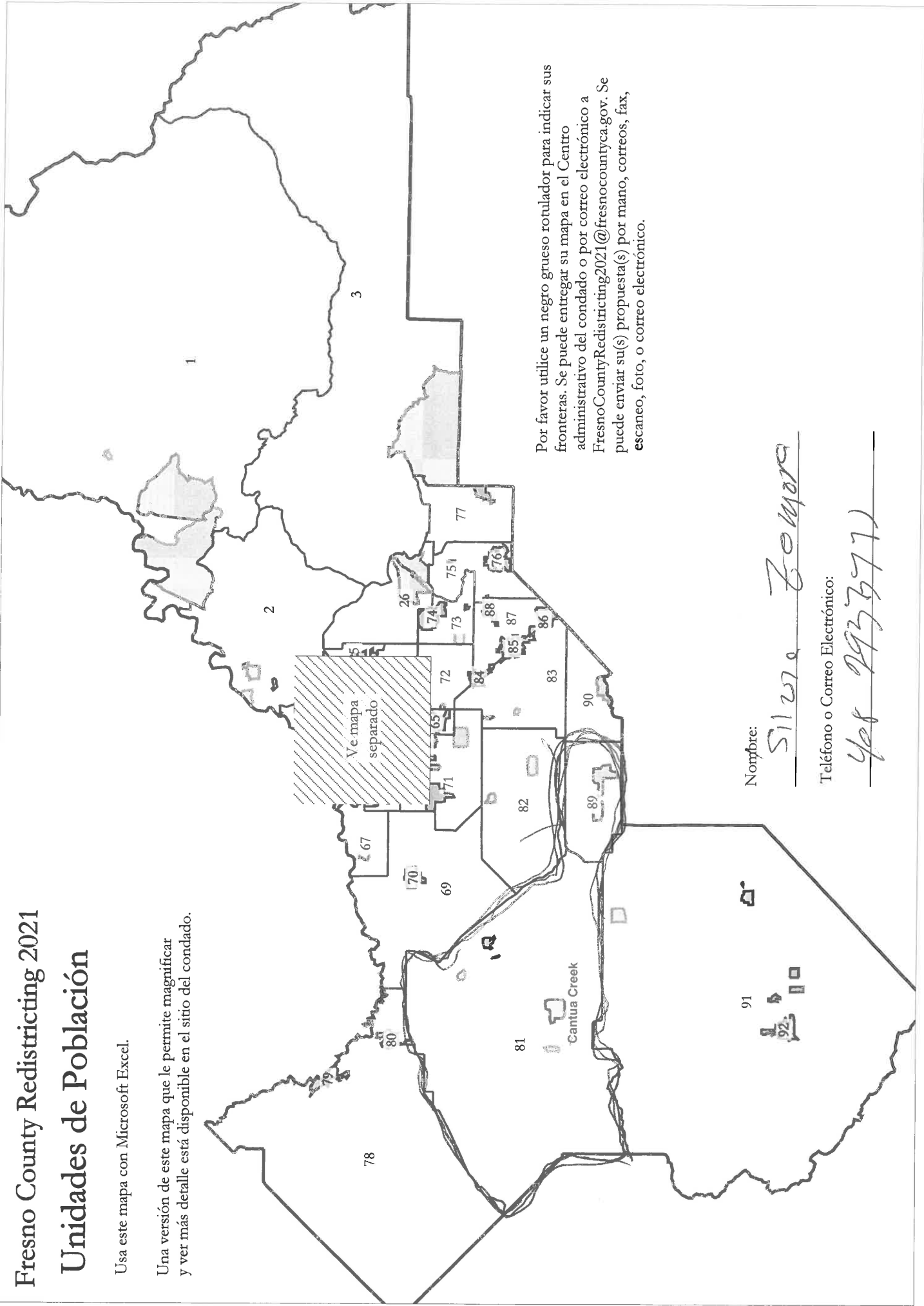
*(559) 999-4418*

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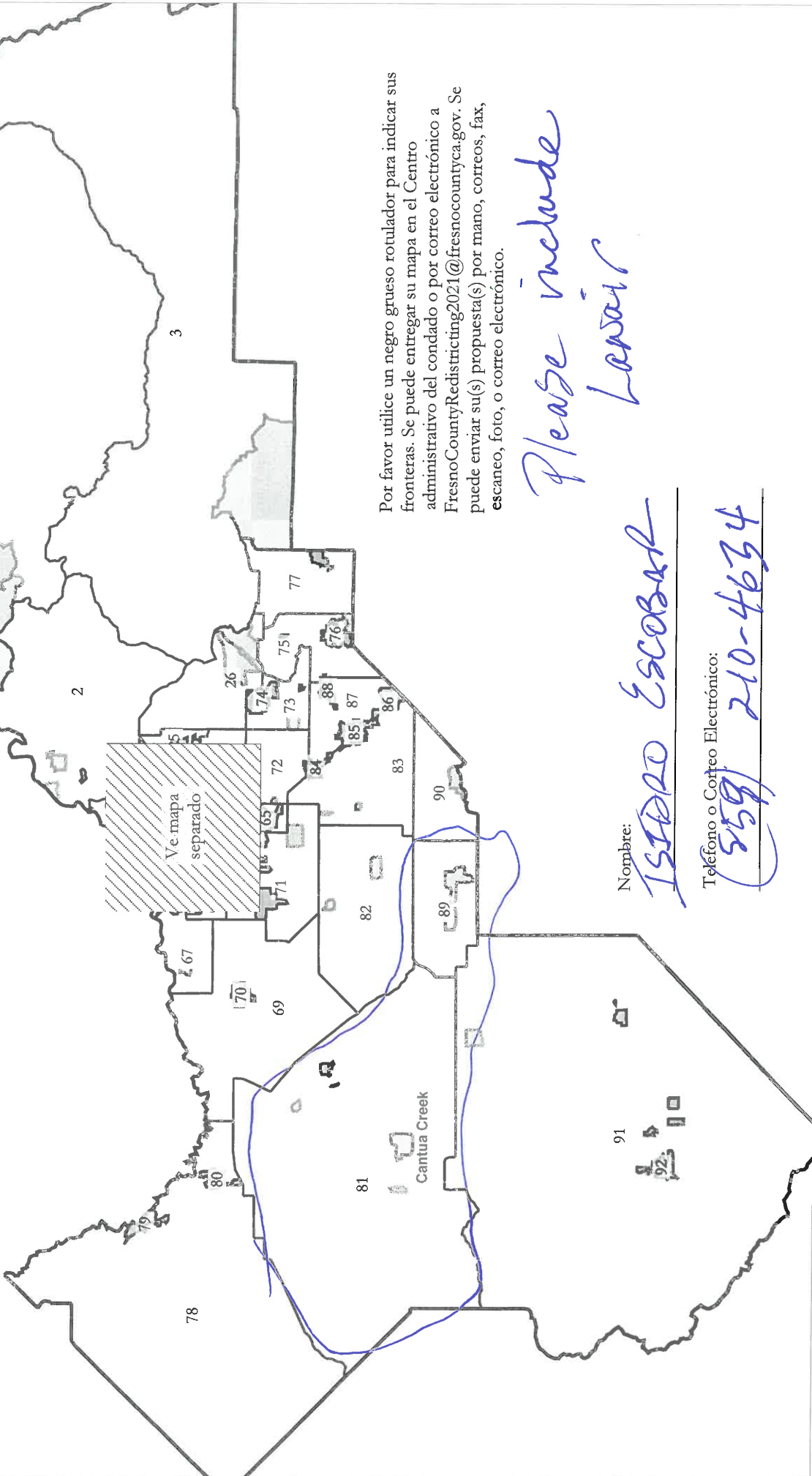
Nombre: Silvia Zomara  
Teléfono o Correo Electrónico: 408 9333771

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*Please include  
Lanair*

Nombre:

*ISIDRO ESCOBAR*

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

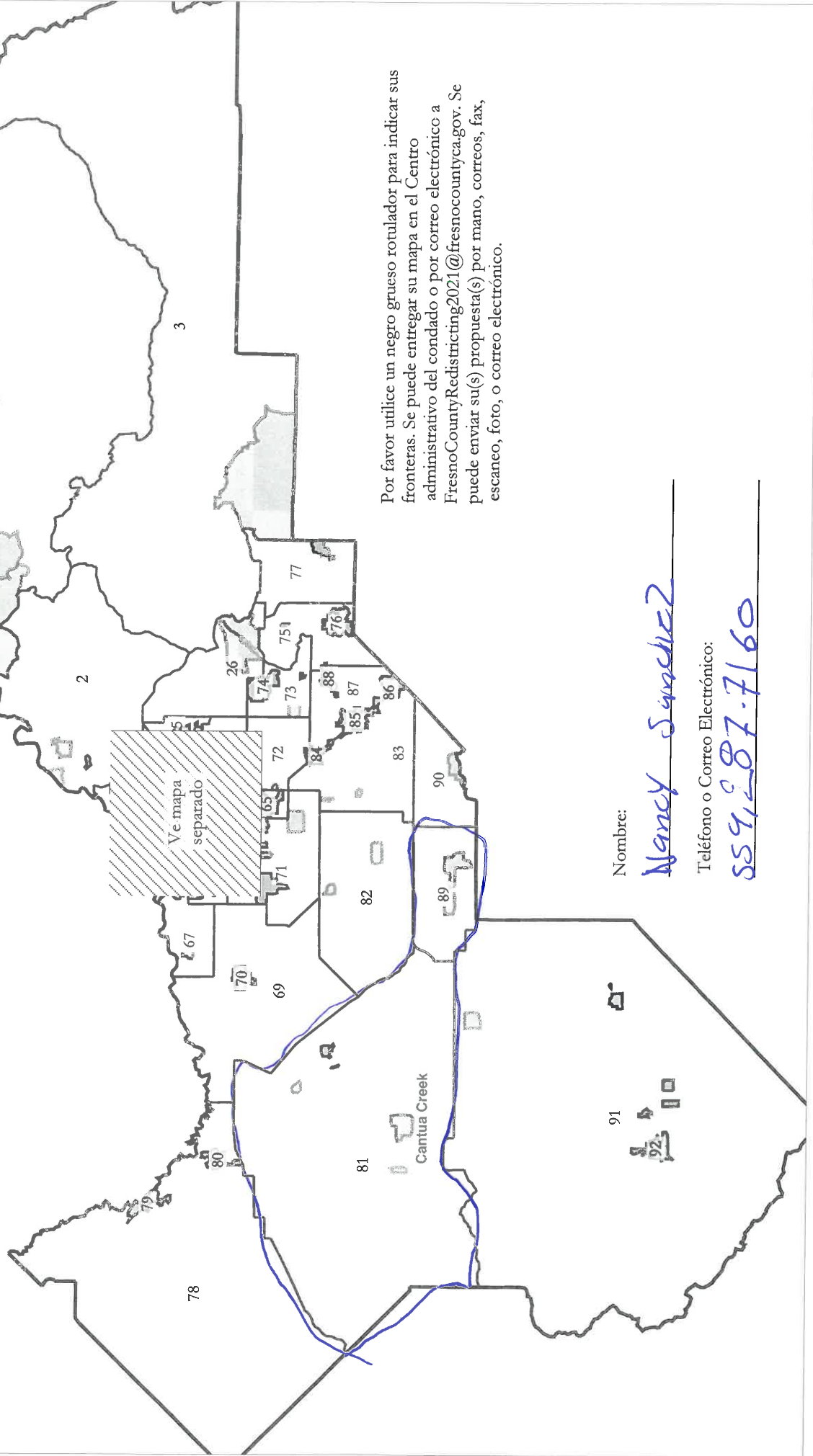
*(559) 210-4634*

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Nombre:

Nancy Sanchez

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

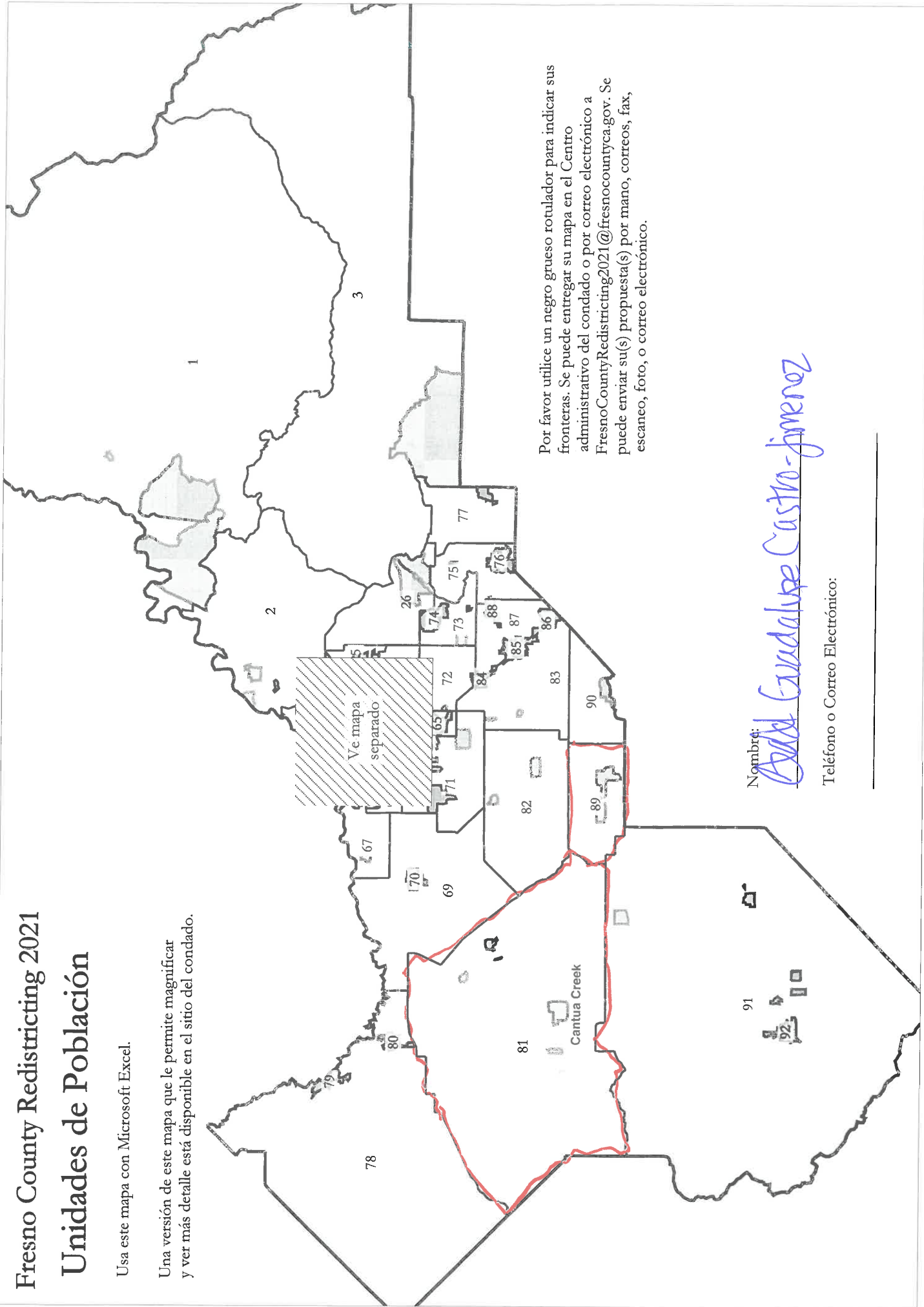
559.287.7160

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Nombre:

*Abel Guadalupe Castro-Jimenez*

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

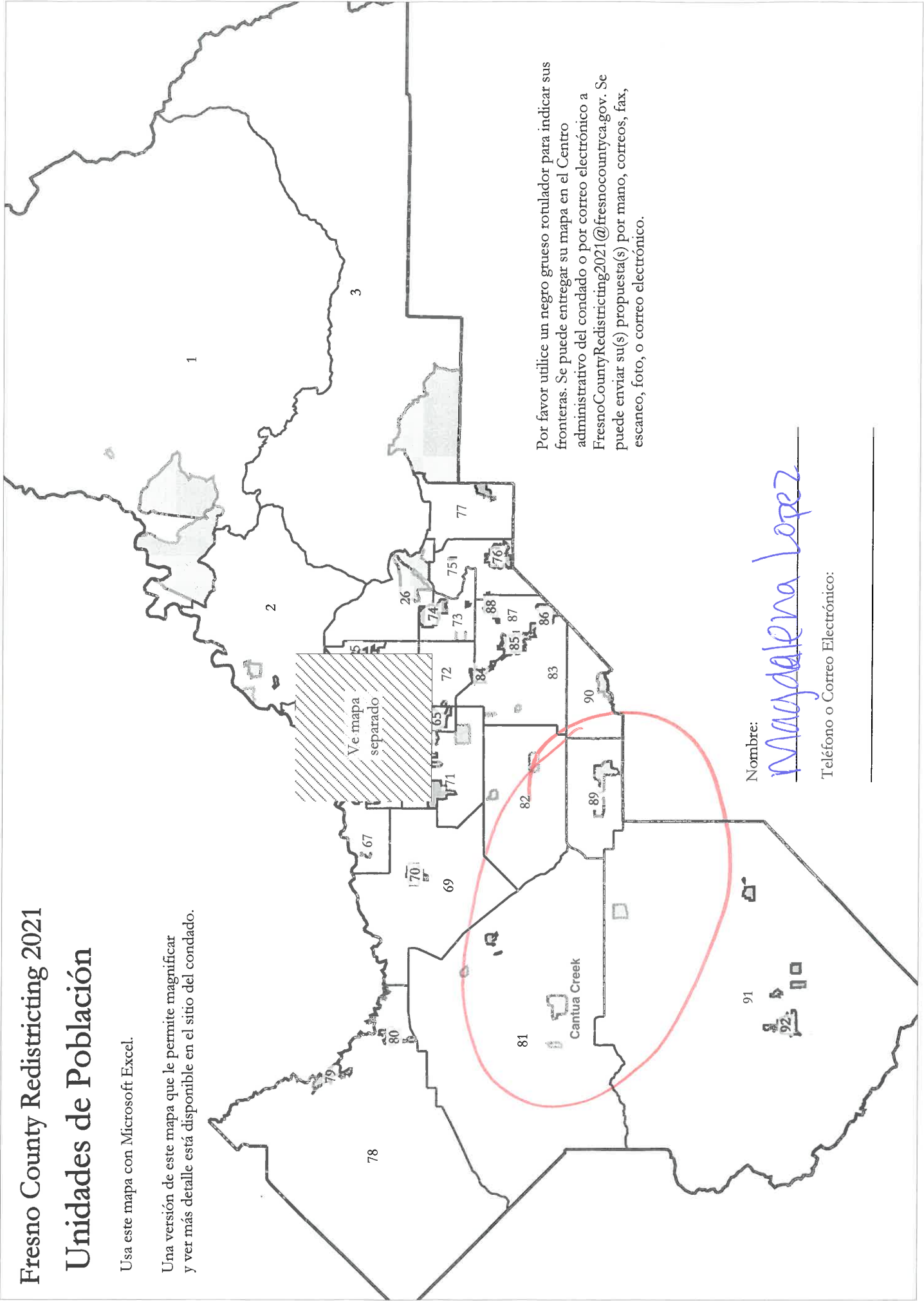
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Por favor utilice un negro grueso rotulador para indicar sus fronteras. Se puede entregar su mapa en el Centro administrativo del condado o por correo electrónico a [FresnoCountyRedistricting2021@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FresnoCountyRedistricting2021@fresnocountyca.gov). Se puede enviar su(s) propuesta(s) por mano, correos, fax, escaneo, foto, o correo electrónico.

Nombre:

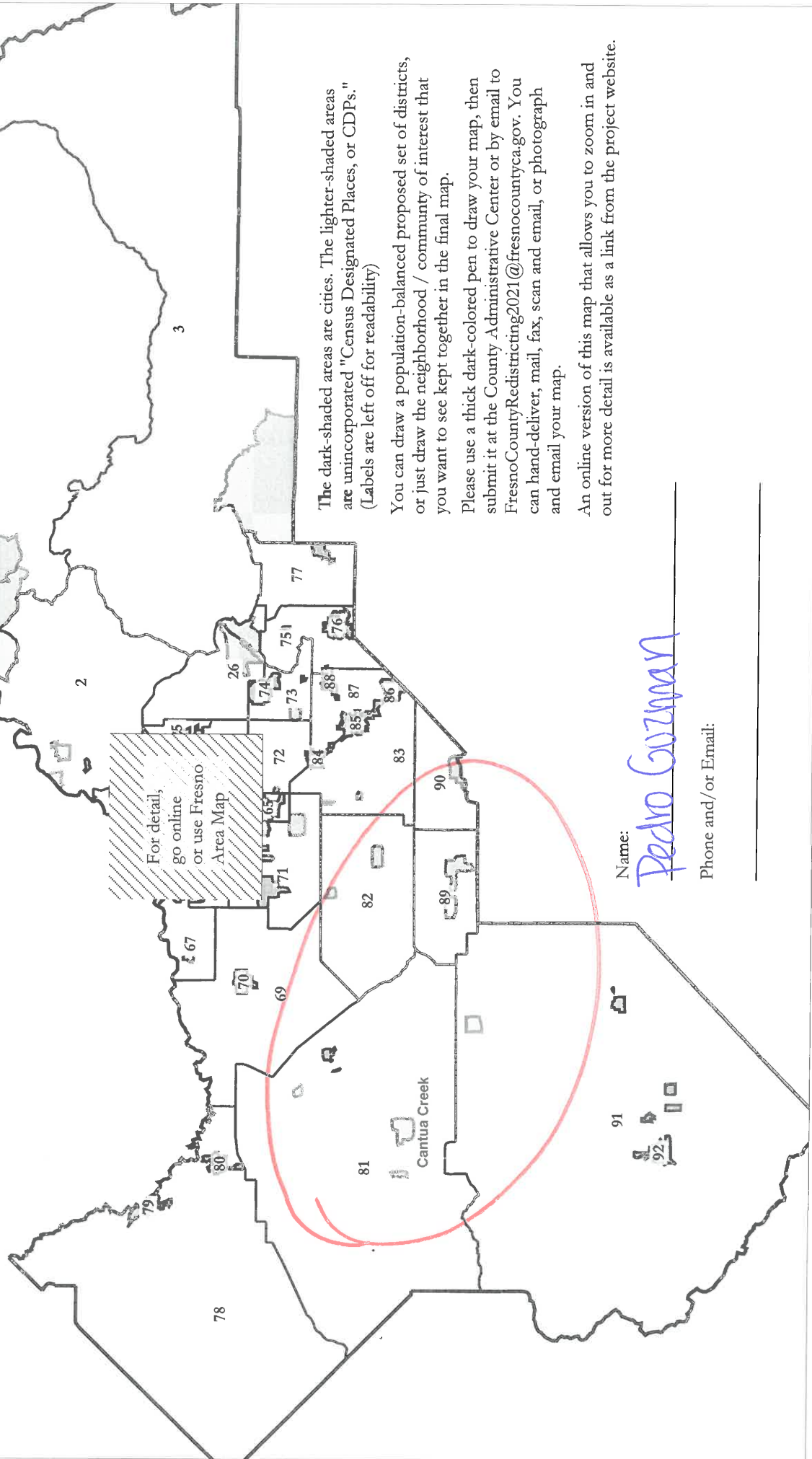
Magdalena Lopez

Teléfono o Correo Electrónico:

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# Fresno County Redistricting 2021 Public Participation Kit Population Unit ID Numbers

Use this map with the Fresno Area Map and the Microsoft Excel kit supplement.



The dark-shaded areas are cities. The lighter-shaded areas are unincorporated "Census Designated Places, or CDPs." (Labels are left off for readability)

You can draw a population-balanced proposed set of districts, or just draw the neighborhood / community of interest that you want to see kept together in the final map.

Please use a thick dark-colored pen to draw your map, then submit it at the County Administrative Center or by email to FresnoCountyRedistricting2021@fresnocountyca.gov. You can hand-deliver, mail, fax, scan and email, or photograph and email your map.

An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the project website.

Name:

*Pedro Guzman*

Phone and/or Email:

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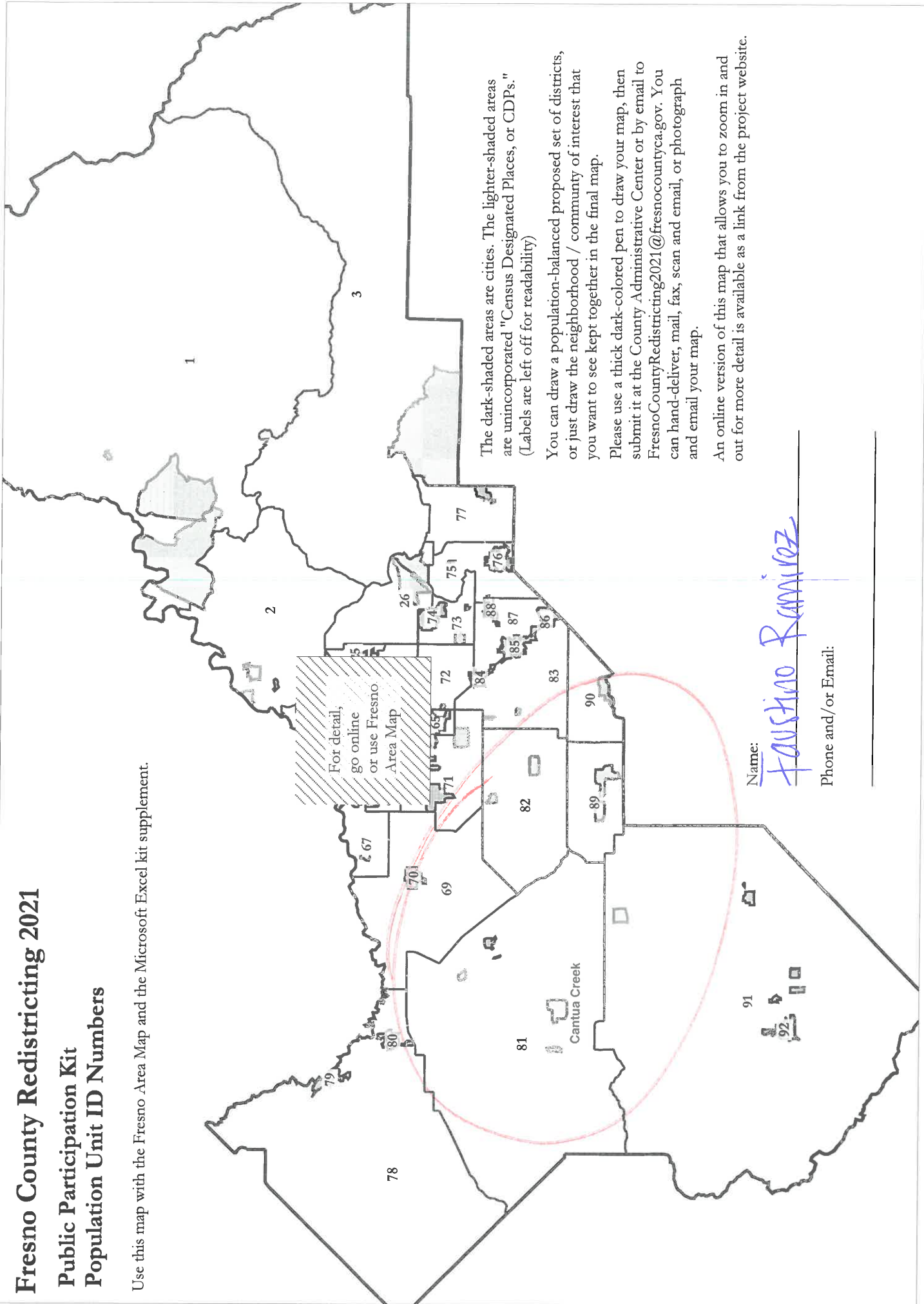


# Fresno County Redistricting 2021

## Public Participation Kit

### Population Unit ID Numbers

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Name:

FAUSTINO RAMIREZ

Phone and/or Email:

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