

**READ INTO RECORD APRIL 23, 2024**

I live on Alameda and I think it is so important that the old part of town is kept whole when drawing council maps. As a hard working single mother, I want to see someone like me on the Council. The old part of town with County named and number named streets has been here the longest and deserves to be kept whole. Maybe one district on the north side of down town and one on the south side of down town, where I live. There is no reason that you can't make the old part of town 2 of the five districts. That only seems fair. Please do not include us in a District that includes Greenhills or the newer area off Santa Cruz. Many of us in the old part of town already feel forgotten about.

Sí, se puede!  
Rosie Alvarado

SUBMISSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE CITY OF CHOWCHILLA

April 23, 2024

IN REGARDS TO THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAWING OF DISTRICTS AND DEFINING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Please read into record during Public hearing for demographic process to draw district boundaries

We submit to the council full support for the following

One key factor in ensuring equitable representation in the drawing of district boundaries is that it accurately reflects the demographics and interests of the communities they serve.

I urge you to prioritize the fair representation of the Arab American community as you draw district lines, and to consider their interests alongside those of other communities.

We would like to define the following neighborhoods which include at least 30 Arab-American households as a community of interest for purposes of protecting the districting process:

This includes the neighborhoods bound by the North of Ventura Ave and West of Gill Way / 15th street which includes Washington Rd., Santa Cruz Blvd. and Cottonwood Dr. This area should be regarded as a singular community of interest. This community shares commonality in ethnic makeup, socio-economic status, language and infrastructure. (Please see Exhibit A and B below for maps).

We support 5 district boundaries based on being able to fairly divide the city with proper representation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ahlaam Escheik, BSN, RN

April 9, 2024

City of Chowchilla

**AGENDA SECTION: Public Hearing**

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing Regarding Demographic Process to Draw District Boundaries; First Public Hearing to Gather Community Input Regarding Composition of District Boundaries

**REPAARED BY:** Digna Diaz, Catalina Lopez, Madlyn Andrade, Sylvia Ramirez, Edgar Ajtun, Jasmin Castro, Alvaro Virgen, Adonay Diaz, Rocio Claros, Dina Gozalez-Pina & Josue Diaz

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** We would like to submit our statement of support for 5 voting districts in Chowchilla as presented by National Demographic Corporation. In addition, we would like to submit for public comment the following definitions of communities of interest within Chowchilla as described below:

**Community of Interest 1: The Historic Downtown**

This community is bound roughly by Front Street to the east, 15 Street to the West, Ventura Street to the North and Mariposa Street to the South. This community also includes the V-shaped block bound by 15 Street, Washington Road and Defender Street. These neighborhood comprises what were some of the first housing developments in Chowchilla. The homes were built from the early 1900s through the 1960s, and the accompanying infrastructure is of similar age. They share commonality in infrastructure needs, socio-economic status, and ethnic makeup among other things. This community of interest has enough population to make up potentially 2 district on a 5 district map – represented as light blue and dark blue on the map below.

**Community of Interest 2: Presidential Streets**

These neighborhoods bound roughly by 15 street to the East, Palm Parkway & Jefferson Streets to the West, Roberston Blvd to the North and Truman Drive to the South are a community of interest. These neighborhoods share commonality in age of homes and infrastructure, as well as commonality in socio-economic status and ethnic makeup among other things. This community is represented by the maroon color on the map below.

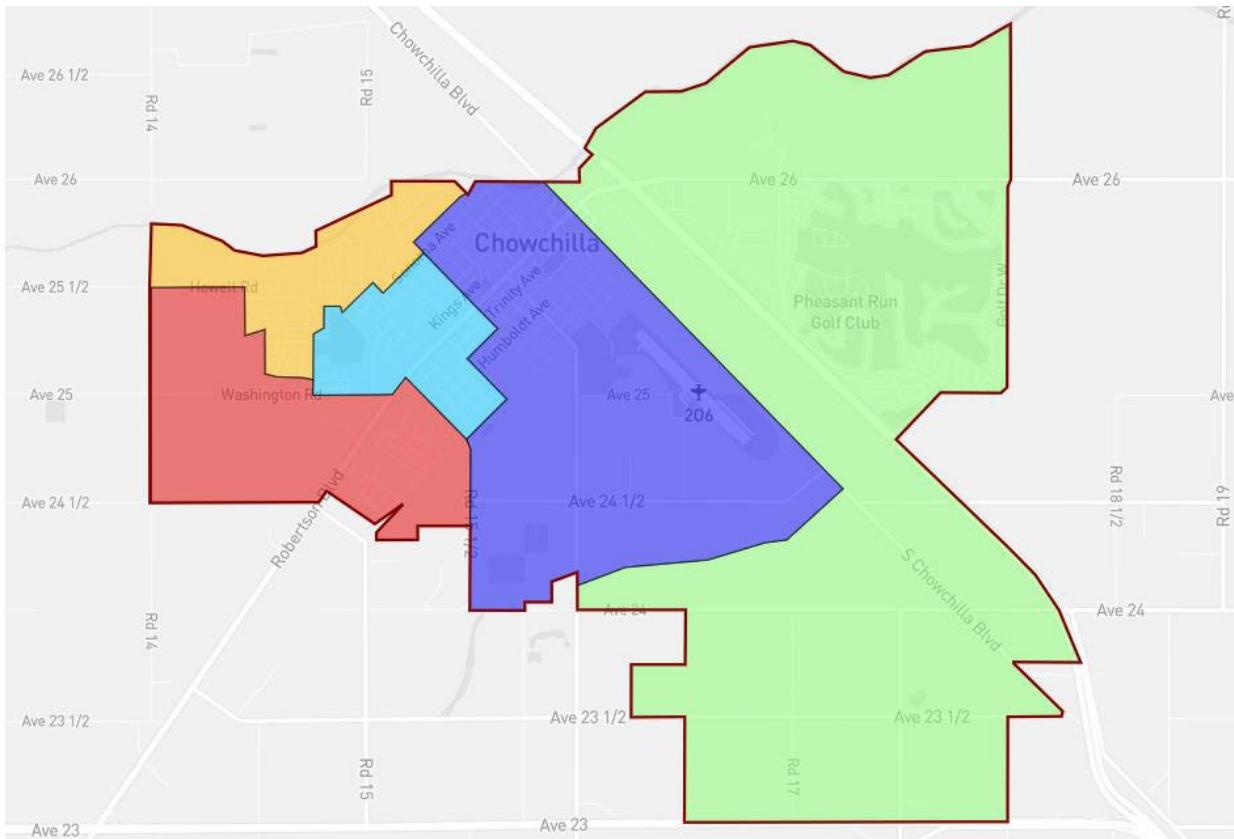
**Community of Interest 3: Greenhills**

These neighborhoods are primarily found within the Pheasant's Run development east of highway 99 and south of Roberston Blvd. They share commonality in age of homes, age of infrastructure, socio-economic status and ethnic makeup. Because this community does not have the required population for a district on its own, it would need to encompass other parts of the city to reach the population threshold. Care should be taken not to incorporate parts of the historic downtown neighborhoods into the resulting district. The sample map below shows this community of interest within the area shaded in green.

**Community of Interest 4: North of Ventura**

These neighborhoods are primarily found north of Ventura Avenue, bound by Ash Slough and stretch west along Howell Road toward Cottonwood Drive. This community shares socio-economic status, ethnic makeup, and age of infrastructure. This community is represented by the yellow on the map below.

The map on the following page and adjoining statistics were prepared by us in keeping with our definition of the communities of interest as described.



## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED MAP

Population			Shapes			Partisan Lean			Demographics (VAP)						DOWNLOAD	
ID	Total	+/-	☒	▼	☒	Dem	Rep	Oth	Total	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	Pacific
Un	0					52.33%	43.02%	4.65%	5,684	31.46%	68.54%	37.95%	24.86%	3.06%	1.95%	2.09%
1	2,757	2.67%	✓	✓		41.09%	56.07%	2.83%	1,825	36.99%	63.01%	52.71%	5.48%	2.14%	2.79%	0.16%
2	2,665	-0.75%	✓	✓		37.71%	60.79%	1.5%	1,872	37.39%	62.61%	54.27%	3.15%	1.87%	5.13%	0.8%
3	2,627	-2.17%	✓	✓		31.22%	67.7%	1.09%	1,933	53.08%	46.92%	26.75%	6.1%	10.97%	3.16%	0.85%
4	2,694	0.33%	✓	✓		39.78%	59.43%	0.79%	1,818	34.93%	65.07%	58.09%	2.37%	1.71%	6.11%	0.61%
5	2,683	-0.08%	✓	✓		37.43%	60.48%	2.1%	1,863	48.42%	51.58%	39.56%	4.08%	6.23%	3.86%	0.59%
	<b>2,685</b>	<b>4.84%</b>	✓	✓		<b>37.19%</b>	<b>61.11%</b>	<b>1.69%</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>38.19%</b>	<b>61.81%</b>	<b>42.98%</b>	<b>12.06%</b>	<b>4.05%</b>	<b>3.35%</b>	<b>1.17%</b>

Comments submitted for the 4/23/24 Public Hearing on District based Elections

Dear Councilmembers:

I was delighted to learn that the City is moving to District based elections. I look forward to our City Council reflecting the diversity of our community, not just from an ethnic standpoint but from geographic and socio-economic perspectives as well. I was troubled to hear that the City is considering going to four districts instead of 5. This stinks of an incumbent protection scheme and will only serve to dilute the voting power of people of color and maintain the stranglehold that the more affluent people have on our community. Numerous council members have expressed support for four districts in the community as recently as this last weekend which leads me to believe that the Council has engaged in conversations about this topic, which is not only a Brown Act Violation but is a disservice to this process that is meant to a public, transparent and community oriented process.

Instead, the Council should respect the California Voting Rights Act and honor the people of this community by proceeding toward a five District plan that protects the most critical community of interest in Chowchilla, the Historic downtown area from Front Street to 15th Street and Ventura to Mairposa. This community of interest is large enough to be represented by two council members and should not be split up into more than 2 Districts and as a resident of the Colusa apartments, this is my request.

Finally, it is imperative that any idea of splitting the Greenhills area into more than one District be abandoned from the onset. Its no secret that four of the current council members hail from the Greenhills area and to split Greenhills into more than one District is an attempt to violate current law in favor of incumbents.

Hugo Chapa

April 23, 2024

City of Chowchilla

Agenda Section: Public Hearing

Subject: Statement of Support for Voting Districts in Chowchilla

Dear Chowchilla City Council,

I am writing to express my full support for the establishment of five distinct voting districts in Chowchilla.

Additionally, I would like to submit for public consideration the following delineations of communities of interest within our city:

#### Community of Interest 1: The Historic Downtown

This community encompasses the area bounded roughly by Front Street to the east, 15th Street to the west, Ventura Street to the north, and Mariposa Street to the south. It also includes the V-shaped block bound by 15th Street, Washington Road, and Defender Street. These neighborhoods represent some of Chowchilla's earliest housing developments, constructed from the early 1900s through the 1960s, with infrastructure of similar vintage. Residents share commonalities in infrastructure needs, socioeconomic status, and ethnic makeup, among other factors. This community of interest has a population significant enough to potentially constitute two districts on a five-district map, as depicted by light blue and dark blue shading on the accompanying map.

#### Community of Interest 2: Presidential Streets

Bound by 15th Street to the east, Palm Parkway and Jefferson Streets to the west, Robertson Boulevard to the north, and Truman Drive to the south, these neighborhoods form a cohesive community. Residents share similarities in the age of homes and infrastructure, as well as socioeconomic status and ethnic composition, among other characteristics. This community is represented by the color maroon on the provided map.

#### Community of Interest 3: Greenhills

Primarily located within the Pheasant's Run development east of Highway 99 and south of Robertson Boulevard, these neighborhoods share commonalities in the age of homes, infrastructure, socioeconomic status, and ethnic makeup. While this community may not independently meet the population threshold for a district, it could encompass other parts of the city to achieve the required population size. However, care must be taken to avoid incorporating parts of the historic downtown neighborhoods into the resulting district. The shaded green area on the sample map illustrates this community of interest.

#### Community of Interest 4: North of Ventura

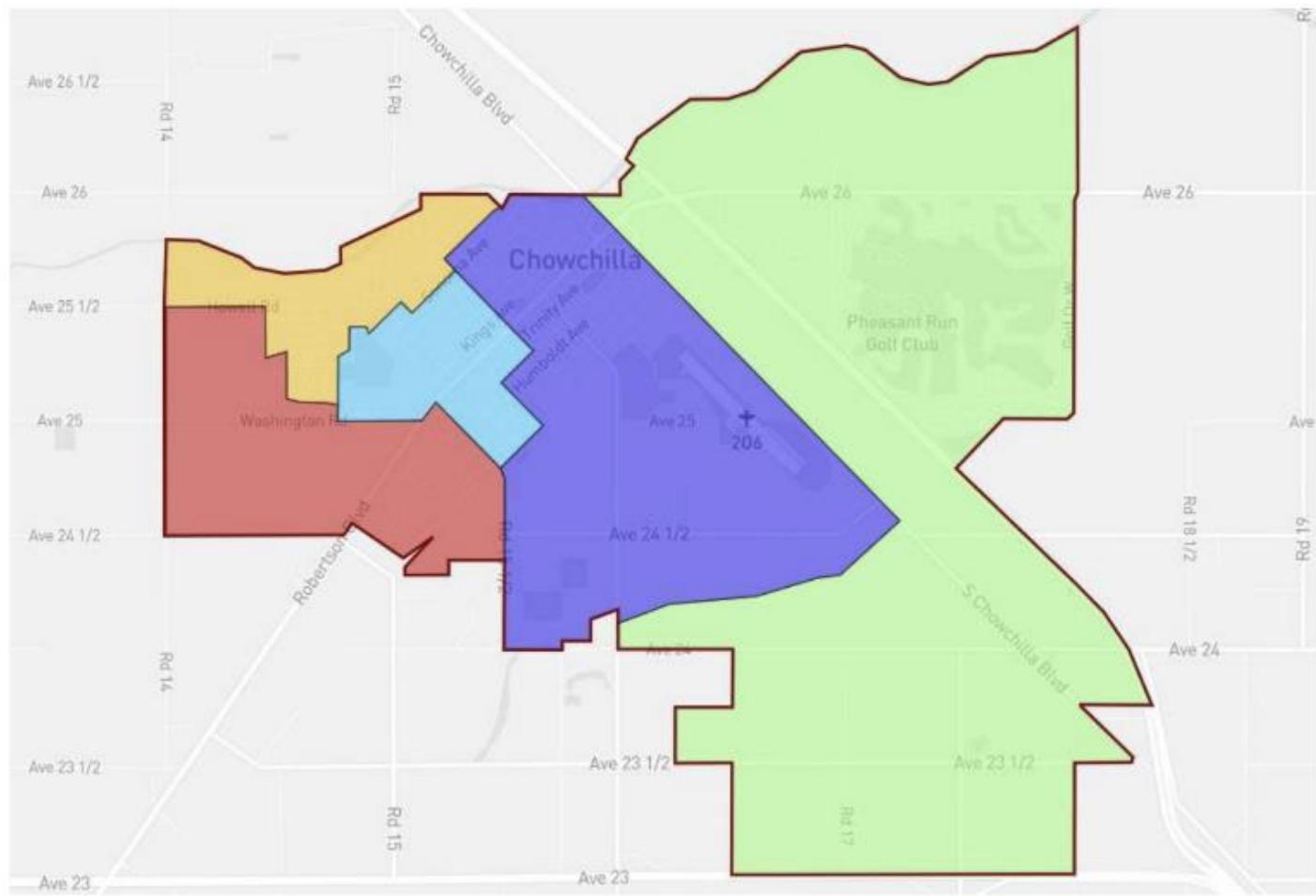
Found primarily north of Ventura Avenue, bounded by Ash Slough and extending west along Howell Road toward Cottonwood Drive, these neighborhoods share similarities in socioeconomic status, ethnic makeup, and the age of infrastructure. This community is represented by the color yellow on the accompanying map. Enclosed with this letter, you will find a map and accompanying statistics prepared by myself, Roberto Zapata, reflecting our proposed definitions of these communities of interest. We believe that these delineations accurately capture the unique characteristics and commonalities among Chowchilla's neighborhoods, ensuring fair and equitable representation for all residents.

Thank you for considering our input as you undertake this important process of districting.

Sincerely,

Roberto Zapata

Proposed Map:



Comments submitted for the 4/23/24 Public Hearing on District based Elections

Dear Councilmembers:

I was delighted to learn that the City is moving to District based elections. I look forward to our City Council reflecting the diversity of our community, not just from an ethnic standpoint but from geographic and socio-economic perspectives as well. I was troubled to hear that the City is considering going to four districts instead of 5. This stinks of an incumbent protection scheme and will only serve to dilute the voting power of people of color and maintain the stranglehold that the more affluent people have on our community. Numerous council members have expressed support for four districts in the community as recently as this last weekend which leads me to believe that the Council has engaged in conversations about this topic, which is not only a Brown Act Violation but is a disservice to this process that is meant to a public, transparent and community oriented process.

Instead, the Council should respect the California Voting Rights Act and honor the people of this community by proceeding toward a five District plan that protects the most critical community of interest in Chowchilla, the Historic downtown area from Front Street to 15th Street and Ventura to Mairposa. This community of interest is large enough to be represented by two council members and should not be split up into more than 2 Districts and as a resident of the Colusa apartments, this is my request.

Finally, it is imperative that any idea of splitting the Greenhills area into more than one District be abandoned from the onset. Its no secret that four of the current council members hail from the Greenhills area and to split Greenhills into more than one District is an attempt to violate current law in favor of incumbents.

Hugo Chapa

Thank you for moving to Council Districts. I think this is desperately needed in our community.

I strongly support protecting the Presidential streets as one community of interest. Many of us who live in this neighborhood associate together, share similar blue collar livelihoods and wish to be represented by a Councilman that lives in our neighborhood.

I strongly support there being five council districts, not four. Our town may be small but for too long certain groups of people have had no representation or poor representation. That is not a criticism of the current council but an observation of how Chowchilla has operated for years. For too long it has been about who you know. The recent issue with taco truck vendors was just a glimpse of how those who are blue collar, hard working latinos were forgotten about.

Thank you.

Vanessa Navarro

## SUBMISSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE CITY OF CHOWCHILLA

April 23, 2024

### IN REGARDS TO THE SECOND PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING DRAWING OF DISTRICTS AND DEFINING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

We submit to the council full support for the following

1. Support for 5 voting districts.
2. Defining the following neighborhoods as a community of interest for purposes of protecting the districting process:

The neighborhoods bound by the North of Ventura and West of 15th street which include Washington Rd. and Santa Cruz Blvd. should be regarded as a singular community of interest and who's representation on a new council should not be diluted or diminished. This community shares commonality in ethnic makeup, socio-economic status, language and infrastructure.

One key factor in ensuring equitable representation is the drawing of district lines that accurately reflect the demographics and interests of the communities they serve.

I urge you to prioritize the fair representation of the Arab American community as you draw district lines, and to consider their interests alongside those of other communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Ahlam Escheik, BSN, RN

Good morning,

Here is a submission for public statement regarding the districting process. Could you have it read into the record during today's meeting please?

The statement is attached, along with the signatures of the following persons, all residents of Chowchilla.

Kimburlin Cortes  
Dolmy Argueta  
Justice Padilla  
Johnny Tamillo  
Helen Mendez  
Felipa Vargas  
Yesenia Coria  
Filiberto Coria  
Maria Idalia Coria  
Felipe Coria  
Maribel Contreras  
Baldemar Contreras  
Mirtha Torres  
Bulmaro Contreras  
Eduardo Contreras  
Guadalupe Barajas  
Catalina Lopez  
Eduardo Gonzalez  
Daniela Avalos  
Sergio Paz  
Veronica Flores  
Jan Piefer  
Jocelyn Perez  
Lina Guadalupe Yanez  
Ernestina Ceja  
Castro Ceja  
Diocelina  
Juliana Martinez  
Luis Barajas  
Stacy Schoolen  
David Schoolen  
Sheila Cook  
Cecilia Gonzalez  
Luis Lopez  
Ramiro Sanchez  
Victor Maldonado  
Daniel Ramirez  
Mario Talavera  
Vercy Alba Ramirez  
Apolinar Chavez  
Marcos Chavez  
Daisy M Chavez  
Edgar Ajtun  
Angela Santamaria  
Rudy Santamaria

Jennifer Ortega

Thank you,

Josué Diaz