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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 1:50 PM  
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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

To: Mayor Rich Constantine, Morgan Hill City Council Members, Donald Larkin and Christina Turner

I'd like to pass on my thoughts regarding redistricting that is currently being considered in Morgan Hill.

It seems that there are two issues in play that influence this issue: 1) the concept of contiguity and 2) communities of interest.

### ***Contiguity and Communities of Interest -***

Contiguity is not completely defined. It can mean that an area being considered for inclusion in a district must be contiguous, meaning that it must be physically touching another area being considered for inclusion in that district. However, the issue isn't completely cut and dry with other factors entering into mix. Specifically, if an area can't be included because there are other parties who own property which doesn't permit two parcels from touching (i.e. the federal/state/county or private ownership), then "communities of interest" shall also be considered as an important factor in the redistricting process.

Furthermore, contiguity can also exist if there are roadways that run through/link the subject parcels together the provide convenient access. In the case of the parcels being discussed, those roadways do exist and they are certainly convenient to all members of that parcel. Such is the situation in District D.

Given the fact that third party ownership of land in District D does, in fact, already exist, then fulfilling "communities of interest" must be considered in order to ensure adequate representation is maintained by all members of the community, regardless of racial, religious, and socio-economic status.

The existing Morgan Hill District Map has already established that these conditions currently exist and that there is nothing illegal about the current map. It is not a "one size fits all" proposition whatsoever in our community. District B, as currently defined, represents a clear "community of interest" which should not require any alteration.

Given these realities, my view is that Map 103 adequately establishes fair representation, easy access and inclusion to all members of our community.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best regards,

James A. Leslie