



**Press Release**  
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### **Asian and Pacific Islander Council Convenes Members for Press Conference on Grave Concerns Regarding the Redistricting Community Input Process**

**San Francisco, CA** — The Asian and Pacific Islander Council (APIC) convened member organizations for a press conference held on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. PST to address grave concerns regarding the practices and procedures executed by the San Francisco Redistricting Task Force. Asian and Pacific Islander communities are being ignored and carved up by this process and the APIC calls on the members of the Redistricting Task Force to address concerns over issues such as language access and preservation of established cultural communities.

“Racial justice in our city relies on dismantling barriers to an inclusive democracy - and we cannot risk failing to embed these values in redistricting. Nearly 43% of San Francisco residents speak a language other than English at home. We call on the Task Force to take urgent action and make improvements that recognize and respect the input of all residents, no matter what language we use,” said Aarti Kohli, Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus.

Additionally, there are dire concerns about that trajectory of District 6 where Filipino-American communities are organizing to uplift concerns.

“Dividing existing communities obliterates the voting power of marginalized communities; this is where the Redistricting Task Force is taking the South of Market and the Tenderloin.” Luisa Antonio, Executive Director, Bayanihan Equity Center.

APIC’s Executive Director, Cally Wong continues: “Ultimately, all our community is asking for a fair and transparent process. Given that what will be deliberated will affect us for the next decade, we can’t afford to overlook and bypass the voices of so many who are clamoring for equity. Many other communities are not satisfied and we hope that the Task Force takes notice today.”

The press conference was held at Kapwa Gardens located at 967 Mission Street in San Francisco, CA 94103. Speakers include Raquel Redondiez, SOMA Pilipinas; Sarah Wan, API Council; Aarti Kohli, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus; Matthias Mormino, Chinatown Community Development Center; Luisa Antonio, Bayanihan Equity Center.

#### **About the Asian Pacific Islander Council**

The Asian Pacific Islander Council (API Council) is a 55-member coalition of nonprofit organizations in San Francisco working to ensure that underserved Asian & Pacific Islanders’ needs are visibly engaged, addressed and represented in policies, research, and data collection, and equitable funding allocations to advance overall healthy communities to enhance and shape San Francisco’s continued vibrant evolution. Collectively, these organizations serve approximately 250,000 Asians and Pacific Islanders annually.

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