

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Shape California's Future](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CA Redistricting Commission: Submitted in support of Linda Akutagawa, ID #22971  
**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:10:31 PM

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I am submitting this memo in support of Ms. Linda Akutagawa (ID#22971) candidate for the California Redistricting Commission.

As a recognized and experienced leader in the Asian American community and resident of Orange County, Ms. Akutagawa's participation in the redistricting process for California is of critical importance. Her knowledge and experience working with diverse communities in Orange County/Southern California is of significant value and importance for the redistricting process.

It is my understanding that the first eight commissioners were selected "at random." In these historic times in our nation and state when there is a critical need to ensure a voice for all communities, especially communities of color, a "random" selection of commissioners for the redistricting process makes absolutely no sense. However, that being the case, it is even more importance that the remaining six commissioners to be selected include at least one Asian American.

In a state as diverse as California, with the largest Asian and Pacific Islander population in the nation, an Asian American female such as Linda Akutagawa, who possesses years of experience, expertise and knowledge working with underserved communities, cannot and should not be overlooked. Clearly, your strong consideration of Ms. Akutagawa is warranted.

I would be happy to discuss this in more detail and can be reached as noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Note: I am a retiree from Southern California Edison with over 30 years of experience representing the company in the public affairs arena at the local, state and national levels. As such, I am keenly aware of political impacts of redistricting, that in turn impact the economic and social well being of communities.