



April 9, 2015

Citizens Independent Districting Advisory Committee  
678 W 18th Street  
Merced, CA 95340

Dear Committee Members:

In recent months residents of the downtown area of Merced have created a new advocacy organization, which we're calling the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA). Many of our members have lived in downtown Merced for many years and are committed to finally creating and sustaining a vibrant, desirable and safe downtown residential area. Our members believe that the fortunes of the downtown business district are inextricably tied to the success of the downtown residential neighborhoods, i.e., we cannot fully realize the potential of the downtown business community if we continue to allow the downtown residential areas to deteriorate.

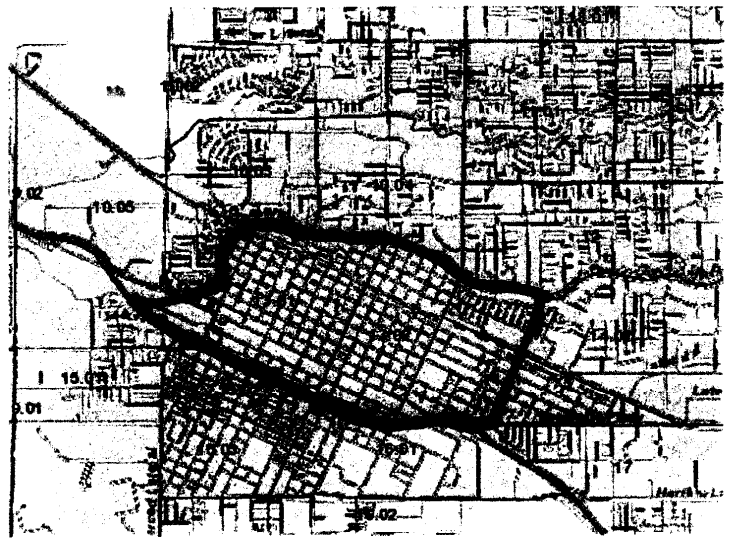
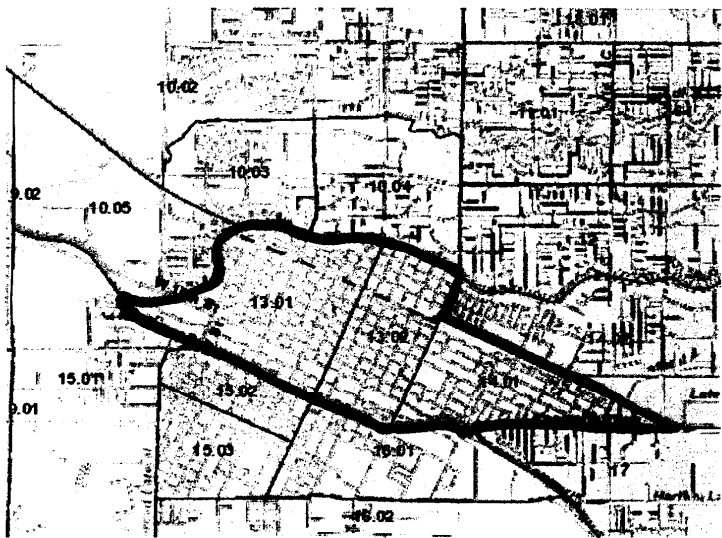
To that end, DNA has organized the community to advocate for the interests of downtown residential areas. Roughly speaking, our Boundaries are Bear Creek on the North and West, 16th Street on the South, and Glen Avenue on the East. The interests of these neighborhoods are consistent with one another, and distinct from other areas of the city. Additionally, data for census tracts 13.01, 13.02, and 14.01, which fall within our boundaries, show a population of roughly 10,000— well below the maximum for a single council district. We believe it would be a grave mistake to dilute these neighborhoods when creating the new districts.

We intend to speak with one voice for those who live in the oldest, most historic neighborhoods of Merced, closest to the downtown business district. We believe the interests of those who live downtown will best and most effectively be served by creating a council district that encompasses the area we have identified as part of the Downtown Neighborhood Association.

We appreciate the challenge before you and look forward to working with you to create council districts that reflect the diverse interests of our city.

Sincerely,

The Merced Downtown Neighborhood Association



Tracts 13.01, 13.02, 14.01 DNA Boundaries, as defined  
 Population: 10,430