

From: Mark Pickus

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:42 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Cc: Superintendent; [email redacted]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the ESMC draft including Arab American studies

As a Jewish Californian and retired public school teacher, I strongly support the ESMC draft which includes Arab American Studies within Asian American Studies.

Fifty years ago, I was an active participant in the struggle at UC Berkeley for ethnic studies. I believed then as now that embracing the history and contributions of people of color to our society makes us stronger and more united. Arab American Studies should continue to be included in the curriculum as part of Asian American Studies. I reject the notion that discussion of Palestine is in any way anti-semitic.

Sincerely,
Mark Pickus
El Cerrito, CA