11 copies only #17

April 28, 2011

To: The California Citizens Redistricting Commission

From: Sandra Figueroa Villa, Executive Director
El Centro del Pueblo

Re: City of Los Angeles Communities of Interest-Echo Park Area

Honorable Commissioners,

First of all, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak and to provide input on my particular community, the Echo Park/Silverlake area which I would like to remain within the areas bounded by the City of Los Angeles.

My name is Sandra Figueroa Villa and I am the Executive Director of a non-profit community based organization, El Centro del Pueblo. We are a grassroots, youth development and family services agency with a broad range of community-based resources for youth and young adults. We are an active collaborator and serve as the lead agency for four major service collaboratives and are partners in two others. We are located West of the Los Angeles River and downtown Los Angeles.

In the early 1970's and 1980's, there were only two non-profit services organizations serving the poor and working class Latino communities west of the Los Angeles River. Unfortunately, at that time, the perception from our elected leaders and government was that Latinos only existed in East Los Angeles.

We were challenged because we had no one representing our interest not only as an ethnic population with several needs, but funding sources to address the challenges were non existent for us. We really had to organize and advocate for fair representation during the redistricting processes since that time.

Our first strategy was to focus then on participating and advocating for more Latino elected representation in our community with the Latino Redistricting Committee and other major organizations. We did so at the expense of our community of Echo Park/Silverlakes' populations split into four Assembly Districts, three Senate Districts, and four Council Districts.

We understood this necessary in order to get fair representation at all levels of politics. We needed a voice and an opportunity to elect representatives who would consider and/or have in common our needs and interests.

As the neighborhood began to change, so did our strategy to unite with other ethnic populations whose families needs were similar to ours. Today, our collaborations include Chinatown Service Center, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, Korean

Youth and Community Center, and providers of the large Central American population. We also found that our communities are tied through geographic proximity, and common socio-economic status, working class and/or poor with common social and cultural interests.

El Centro del Pueblo has been in the forefront and leadership of building and strengthening the multicultural, multidisciplinary Coalition to identify and advocate for public policy changes and changes in social norms among youth and young adult in Echo Park/Silverlake.

We would like to request that you consider keeping the City of Los Angeles intact, that most of the communities within the city remain there, in particular our community of Echo Park/Silverlake, and that we are given the opportunity to continue electing those who are sensitive to and have the same common interests of our neighborhood.

Thank you,

Sandra Figueroa Villa
Executive Director
El Centro del Pueblo
[redacted]

#30

Kurt Schroeder

[redacted]

April 28, 2011

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission,

I am a resident of West Los Angeles in a community commonly referred to as "The Westside." "The Westside" can be described as the area extending south from the Santa Monica Mountains to LAX Airport, from the Pacific Ocean east to about La Brea Blvd. It includes not only part of the City of Los Angeles (Brentwood, Bel Air, Westwood, Century City, Marina Del Rey, Venice, Mar Vista, Palms, the Sawtelle District in West LA, etc.), but also the independent cities of Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City and West Hollywood

As residents of "The Westside", we all share the same concerns about **jobs, schools, traffic, parking and public transportation**; each of the areas that comprise "The Westside" have a similar mix of ethnic and socioeconomic levels.

From a representation and districting standpoint, "The Westside" appears to be a china plate that has been dropped on the ground and shattered into multiple pieces; "The Westside" is the **Yugoslavia of Los Angeles County**:

WESTSIDE
California State Assembly Districts:

Santa Monica: **41st Assembly District.**
41st AD connects Santa Monica to Oxnard in Ventura County, *but **NOT** to the rest of "The Westside."*

Marina Del Rey, Venice, Mar Vista, Palms and the Westside's Sawtelle District: **53rd Assembly District**
53rd AD connects these 5 communities to the South Bay (El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance), *but NOT to Santa Monica or the rest of "The Westside."*

Century City, Beverly Hills: **42nd Assembly District**
42nd AD connects Century City, Beverly Hills to the San Fernando Valley, *but NOT to neighboring Westwood, Santa Monica or West LA.*

WESTSIDE
Congressional Districts:

30th Congressional District:
Connects Santa Monica and some of West LA to Agora Hills, *but NOT to the rest of West LA.*

36th Congressional District:
Connects Marina Del Rey, Venice, Mar Vista, Palms and West LA's Sawtelle District to the South Bay and SAN PEDRO, *but NOT to Santa Monica or the rest of "The Westside."*

The Public Transportation System in "The Westside" tells the real story. One can ride the bus all over the Westside area without transfer on 3 different city bus lines, but it is impossible to get from anywhere in "The Westside" to the South Bay without multiple transfers. Why? There is no need to connect "The Westside" to the South Bay. If there was, there would be multiple bus lines providing service between these two areas. We are two separate and distinct communities; we are connected only in our voting districts.

My plea to the Citizens Redistricting Commission is a simple one: let us vote and be represented with our immediate neighbors who share the same local problems and concerns. Let the voters of "The Westside" be represented with their neighbors *and not with citizens of far-flung **Oxnard** or **San Pedro** who share little in common with our local community.*

Sincerely,

Kurt Schroeder
(Resident of CD30, AD47 and SD28)

#70

Glen C. Dake

April 20, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Griffith Park Community of Interest

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I urge you to keep Griffith Park and the communities that touch it together in the legislative districts you draw. Currently, this one park, and the very similar neighborhoods that abut it, are represented by three state Assemblymembers, two state Senators, and four U.S. Congressmembers. I participated in a grassroots effort regarding this part of the City recently and residents in one neighborhood petitioned this rather large group of legislators, causing confusion, disaffection of residents from their government, and lack of accountability.

A state legislative district composed of Griffith Park will provide accountability to taxpayers and park users for the future improvements to the park, which is home to extensive regional infrastructure, and which continually seeks state appropriations. It is important that Griffith Park and surrounding neighborhoods are drawn into one Assembly district (not just one Senate District) because the residents have greater opportunities to meet and advocate to their Assemblymember than they have to their Senator because of smaller districts.

Griffith Park is the largest municipal park with "urban wilderness" in the United States, and it is a City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument. The neighborhoods surrounding Griffith Park include: the "Rancho" equestrian subdivision in the City of Burbank, Universal City (including Universal Studios), Hollywood Knoll, Cahuenga Terrace, Hollywoodland, Beachwood Canyon, The Oaks, Los Feliz, Silver Lake, and Atwater Village.

The communities that touch Griffith Park share many things in common, making them, together, a community of interest. All feature an abundance of designated Cultural Heritage Monuments, similar employment patterns, park access, traffic patterns, equestrian trails, equestrian-zoned properties, foothill elevation, urban watershed pathways, increased municipal fauna presence, similar crime patterns, and a similar history and civic outlook.

For example, the neighborhoods surrounding Griffith Park all share similar traffic patterns, ie, they face more traffic on weekends than weekdays, patterns that are diametrically opposed to other neighborhoods in close proximity. Many of the neighborhoods bordering the park feature horse properties, which are otherwise rare in the modern urban context. Preserving the semi-rural nature of the equestrian properties and the other park-adjacent properties is a major goal of area homeowners. Griffith Park is home to mule deer, coyotes, hawks, and several other wildlife species not typically seen in Los Angeles County, and this wildlife forage in the surrounding urban neighborhoods presenting the same challenges, particularly for pet ownership and refuse disposal to residents of the various neighborhoods in this topic of State regulatory authority.

[redacted]

The neighborhoods surrounding Griffith Park, because of their semi-rural or wilderness-adjacent character, face similar crime profiles. All have occasional issues with drunk driving through the neighborhoods after special events, individuals passing through the residential neighborhoods to commit crime in the Park, and large numbers of drivers on neighborhood streets used to access the Park. Those neighborhoods thus share many of the same concerns when it comes to crime and criminal-justice issues.

For these reasons and others, the communities surrounding Griffith Park should be kept in the same legislative districts. Our ability to access our governmental leaders on the unique concerns detailed above is improved when districts are arranged to keep communities which share so many characteristics together, to allow the residents of the local neighborhoods to petition their governments effectively. We thank you for your consideration of these points and concerns as you embark on drawing the lines that will affect our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Glen C. Dake

Director, Los Angeles Community Garden Council (a CA non-profit corporation)*
Director, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (a CA non-profit corporation)*
Member, Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission (2008-2010)*

*title provided for identification only

[redacted]

#85

Good evening Commissioners, my name is Ted Tanner and I am Executive Vice President for Real Estate Development for AEG, owners and operators of Staples Center, LA Live including the new 1001 room JW Marriott and Ritz Carlton Hotels and Ritz Residences and recently we have proposed the 1.35B LACC Modernization and Farmers Field Project.

Having invested more than $2.5B to date, we are an integral part of Downtown Los Angeles and are proud to play an active role in the urban renewal happening in the heart of our city. This urban renewal has evolved from public policy and private investment efforts based on renovation, cooperation and mutual benefit. From LA City Hall and Chinatown to Staples Center and LA Live, from Center City West and Bunker Hill to the LA River, Downtown is a vibrant social, artistic, cultural and economic engine for the largest city in California. The renewal required public private partnership with business and government at the local, state and national levels.

Having been directly involved in the revitalization of downtown L.A. for the past 30 years I have a unique perspective on this topic. Prior to my last 13 years at AEG, I was SVP for at Development Catellus, where I led the acquisition and redevelopment of Union Station, firmly establishing it as the region's transportation hub. Before Catellus, with Mayor Bradley's Economic Development office, I oversaw the redevelopment of the L.A. Wholesale Produce Market which lead to significant revitalization of Downtown L.A.'s east side industrial area.

Although new redistricting laws say that Districts shall be drawn in compact ways that protect communities of

interest and doesn't divide cities or counties--- the City of Angeles due to its 4 million residents will be divided in ways unlike any other city in the State. I urge the commission to deal with Los Angeles as a unique and special case and keep its heart in downtown whole and fully contained in assembly, senate and congressional districts.

As one of the most vibrant Arts and Entertainment Districts in the State, Downtown Los Angeles has grown into more than a daytime job center. As a developing and evolving area that services the entire region- stable and consistent political representation is essential to cohesively and efficiently manage traffic, planning and economic development efforts.

With close to 40,000 residents, a 207,440 person daytime population and a growing night and weekend art, entertainment and recreation destination, Downtown Los Angeles requires extraordinary coordination and cooperation that is best achieved by existing wholly in State and Federal Districts. Additionally, including nearby Los Angeles neighborhoods especially those along transit and industrial corridors will allow for sensitive management of the challenges that often arise from large scale revitalization efforts such as the ones being undertaken in Downtown Los Angeles.

We need our local government, state government and federal government to efficiently be part of this effort. I urge the commission to help support the continued revitalization of Downtown Los Angeles, by keeping it together.

Thank you.

#65

Address to the 2011 Citizen Redistricting Commission - LA City Hall 4-28-2011

I'm Denny Schneider and I speak to you as a Westchester-Playa del Rey community leader. I sit on our Neighborhood Council, am past president of our Westchester Neighbors Assn., long time education volunteer, President of ARSAC (Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion), Chair of the LAX-Community Noise Roundtable, Member of the Integrated Resource Planning for Water and Waste Water Advisory Group, and many more. Our community is a small town environment within the giant megalopolis of Los Angeles. We are the major coastal north-south traffic corridor. Our local streets are constantly filled with auto traffic going from the South Bay to West LA. In addition we have LAX within our borders so the 405 seems more like a parking lot than a freeway.

Although our daily lives –working, shopping, and recreation-- are generally aligned north-south our district boundaries are typically east-west oriented. Our local Chamber of Commerce is the best example. Over the years the Westchester Chamber has merged multiple times to increase coverage. Each time it has added business to the north or south.

We are nested within the boundaries of other districts leaving our community broken up to fill one requirement or another to keep other communities intact. Although we are within one City Council district, we enjoy boundaries that result in two County Supervisors, two CA Assembly members, and two CA Senators not to mention numerous other regional district offices plus two Congressional districts.

The 53rd AD is a perfect example. Predominantly a South Bay district a sliver runs through our community up the coast several miles to encompass Venice and Mar Vista instead of our community.

As a member of the W-PDR Community Plan Update Committee I've seen our vision plans ignored by various interests. One example of the impact of this gerrymandering is evident in the Crenshaw-LAX Train plan. We continue to support the other communities' valid interests which include optional stations to the east. Yet these "options," if approved, will result in the only station for Westchester remaining "optional" because of the split representation.

I will be happy to provide more detail and support if requested. Thank you in advance for your public service.

Denny Schneider

[redacted]

#57

Scott Shuster
[redacted]
90020

I moved into the downtown LA Area from the suburbs to get out of the traffic and to be more centrally located to the places I need to visit for work. While I am now out of the traffic jam; sometimes for over an hour each day, I find myself driving around looking for a place to park - a problem that could be easily remedied.

My neighborhood is right on the edge of Korea Town. The Shriner's Children's Hospital is right around the corner. We enjoy two parks – MacArthur Park and Lafayette Park and access to two transit lines. We are not far from the Hotels, Convention Center, the downtown arenas and the newly proposed Farmers Field all of which promise employment and excitement.

There are lots of young families with children who attend the nearby schools. Immigrants Rights, Continuing Education, English as a Second Language (ELS) as well high quality, multi lingual education for our children are most important to our community.

We are a very diverse, upwardly mobile, neighborhood representing a broad cross section of age groups, many different religions, many different nationalities and people who speak many different languages.

As a mater of fact, I would say it is this diversity that is the cornerstone of our community. We all relish walking, shopping and eating in. downtown, in Westlake, around Commerce and around Wilshire Center - which represents many lifestyles and cultures from all around the world. It is truly a culinary delight to live here. It is our appreciation of this diversity that ties us together.

I am also sure that it is this thriving small business & entrepreneurial base which forms the economic foundation for many of the people who live in my neighborhood.

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#108

RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF THE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

[redacted]
phone
fax

30000 Mulholland Highway, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Mail: PO Box 638, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-0638

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April 28, 2011

Via Electronic Mail to:

Citizen's Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95815

RE: Redistricting of Senate and Assembly Districts

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

For 50 years, the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM), a legal subdivision of the State of California, has been a non-regulatory reviewing and resource agency in the Santa Monica Mountains and Upper Los Angeles River watersheds. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input related to the proposed re-districting of the State of California, and have over the last half-century identified a number of important "Communities of Interest" that bind the Santa Monica Mountains Watersheds in a single, local community of interest. We ask that the communities of the Santa Monica Mountains, those in both Los Angeles and Ventura County and their watersheds flowing into the Santa Monica Bay and Pacific Ocean, as well as the adjacent watersheds of the Simi Hills and upper Los Angeles River system, be represented to the greatest extent possible in unified representational districts.

The Santa Monica Mountains local community of interest is bounded by:

- The Conejo Grade/Thousand Oaks of Ventura County in the northwest
- Point Mugu of Ventura County in the southwest
- The Pacific and Santa Monica Bay coastline, Malibu and Santa Monica in the south-southeast
- The Upper Los Angeles River watershed side of the Santa Susanna Pass, Chatsworth and Bell Canyon Communities in the north, and
- Extends along the spine of Mulholland Drive, north to the 101 Freeway, as far to the east as Runyon Canyon, West Hollywood.

The municipalities and wholly contained unincorporated communities of the Santa Monica Mountains include: Thousand Oaks, Hidden Valley, and Deer Creek, Yerba Buena and Bell Canyons (all of Ventura county); and Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, West Hills, Woodland Hills, Encino, Sherman Oaks, Monte Nido, Cornell, Malibou Lake, Malibu, Topanga, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Bel

Air, Beverly Glen, Westwood, and the Canyon Areas of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood in Los Angeles County. All of these communities of interest link natural and human communities with one another in a manner unique to mountain watersheds, and have multiple common resource interests, including:

Watersheds- Watershed boundaries are real geographic features that directly impact the movement of water and wildlife, and in form the underpinning of local ecology. Watersheds in this way create the underlying community of interest for both human and non-human residents. Municipal jurisdictional boundaries that misalign with watershed boundaries set the stage for numerous management conflicts that can be avoided by keeping watersheds as intact as possible within the political process.

Water Quality- From a practical and watershed perspective, what happens upstream affects what happens downstream. From a regulatory framework, the impacts of inter-mountain communities and their responsibility for both point and non-point pollution is shared throughout watersheds. Water quality is a tremendous concern in the Santa Monica Mountains, as it is throughout the state. Providing political entities that are responsible for the whole of a river or creek system, rather than fragmenting it, is both practical and positive.

Urban Wildland Interface Wildfire Management- The Santa Monica Mountains define the edge of dense urban development in the San Fernando Valley and laong the coast, and include numerous communities and neighborhoods within the mountains themselves. Many municipalities, such as Malibu and Calabasas in Los Angeles County, Westlake Village (with contiguous development straddling both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties) and Thousand Oaks of Ventura County, cover both wildland in the upper reaches of their watersheds, and adjacent valley areas in the lower reaches. The interface with natural areas defines a number of shared interests, foremost among them wildfire management. For communities residing within the mountains, balancing the management of seasonal wildfire threat with the conservation of scenic, recreational, and wildlife values is a common concern.

Transportation Corridors- While some see the Santa Monica Mountains as a division between the San Fernando Valley and the coast, in fact, the through-mountain roads, as well as the creeks and rivers, provide critical connections that create a community of interest on both sides of the mountains. Thousands of daily commuters rely upon the 101 and 10 freeways, Kanan Rd, Malibu Canyon Rd, and Topanga Canyon Blvd, in the west, as well as the 405, Sepulveda, Laurel Canyon and Coldwater Canyon Roads in the central portion of the mountains to get to and from their homes and work. In addition, these corridors also provide wildlife linkages used by everything from fish to mountain lions. Incorporating these transportation corridors into a single political unit facilitates and focuses scarce resources most effectively.

Scenic and Recreational Resources- As the hub of recreation for a densely populated

urban area, the Santa Monica Mountains are a critical resource for a region that expands well beyond its immediate boundaries. Millions of visitors from near and far utilize the Mountains and its watersheds from the Upper Los Angeles River watersheds on the north and east, to the Pacific and Santa Monica Bay watersheds on the south and west. From a recreational perspective, the flow of people whose quality of life is sustained by the mountains and beaches follows its watersheds.

Wildlife Habitat- The Santa Monica Mountains is home to numerous rare flora and fauna that both benefit and are threatened by watershed-based influences. Invasive species must be managed from a whole-watershed perspective, as weeds in particular will reseed downstream if sources upstream are not managed. Connectivity at the regional scale is also critical. The Mountains' apex predator, the Mountain Lion, relies entirely on linked and fragile watershed connections from the Santa Monica Bay and Pacific Ocean on the south, through the upper Los Angeles watersheds of the Simi Hills to source populations in the Los Padres National Forest. If this community of interest- which includes human residents who value such complete ecosystems- were not maintained, the genetic health of this animal would not be sustainable within the Santa Monica Mountains

Again, such vital and life-sustaining linkages do not limit themselves to County and municipal boundaries. Shared interests in this region have led to the creation of numerous cooperative agreements and administrative overlays, including the Malibu-Las Virgenes Council of Governments, and most notably, the critical open space network of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The RCDSMM is the fourth element of this regional natural resource community of interest that stretches from Ventura County's Point Mugu in the west and Santa Susanna Pass in the north, to Los Angeles County's Santa Monica in the south and Runyon Canyon in the east, and is uniquely chartered to work with private owners within these watersheds on a voluntary basis. In recognition of this two-county community of interest, the RCDSMM was recently funded by a three-year grant from the State Department of Conservation to organize the Santa Monica Mountains Watersheds Council.

To date, the collection of watersheds that define the communities of interest described above and shown in the attached map has benefited by a relatively un-fragmented overlay of state-level representation. Currently, the Santa Monica Mountains area of interest described herein is represented primarily by State Senate districts 23 and Assembly district 41, but also includes portions of Senate Districts 17, 19, 20, and 21, and Assembly Districts 37, 40, and 42. Future redistricting should seek to keep the communities of the greater Santa Monica Mountains area and their associated watersheds whole within single representational districts to the greatest extent possible. Adhering to the following principles when defining representative districts

would maintain or enhance the connectivity of interests that is critical to the health and vitality of our communities:

1. Emphasize continuity of watershed form and habitat linkages. The mountainous portions of the westernmost and southernmost upper Los Angeles River watershed- the so-called "Rim of the Valley" areas- should be grouped in a single community of interest with the coastal areas that drain from the Santa Monica Mountains. The Pacific coastal canyons of southeast Ventura County, for instance, have more in common with those of Malibu in Los Angeles County than the adjacent, largely agricultural, Oxnard Plain or the west-draining and more arid Simi Valley.
2. Identify and work with existing land management overlays so that the communities of interest they represent are kept intact. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area represents such an administrative overlay.
3. Understand and respect that large and connected areas of open space, although not in and of themselves sources of significant populations, bind significant adjacent populations in a strong community of interest, and so fragmentation of these areas and communities should be avoided.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments in this early stage of the redistricting process. We look forward to participating as the work progresses. Should you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, or would like to more directly engage the RCDSMM, please feel free to contact me or our Senior Conservation Biologist, Rosi Dagit, using the contact information provided on this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Stevens
Executive Officer

#101

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

My name is Geri Kenyon. I have lived in the unincorporated community of Topanga since 1977, and have worked for the LAUSD as a school psychologist since 1978, retiring in 2009.

During that time, I have come to understand Topanga from the perspective of an educator even while I became that special human entity – a Topangan.

Topanga is unique in both a general and a specific case.

While it is integrated into the surrounding communities – the 'Valley', Malibu, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Calabasas, etc., - it also preserves its essential creative uniqueness both as pertains to its internal function and in how it reaches out to influence the areas surrounding it.

Topanga is home to interests that touch on the spiritual through the mundane - there are classes in Yoga for our Senior Citizens and preschools organized and supported by community families for our newest Topangans – and, of course, we have the Will GeerTheatricum Botanicum offering all manner of theater to Topanga and beyond, (every year, over 12,000 school children from all over greater L.A. travel in the Spring and Fall to attend "School Days" classical theatre instruction at the Theatricum), and, then, there's gardening instruction offered at Ribbit Nurseries as well, as examples.

We are served by both public and private schools here in Topanga including Topanga Elementary School, now a Charter derived from its LAUSD heritage, and we have Muse, just down the road from my house, providing a wonderful educational experience, privately. My grandson, over 20 years ago attended the Montessori Preschool across the street from my home while my granddaughter attended Topanga Elementary.

Students completing elementary school here in Topanga and who wish to remain in the public/charter school systems matriculate to middle and high schools adjacent to Topanga in the communities of Calabasas (LVUSD), Malibu (SMMUSD), and LAUSD schools in Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles, and Woodland Hills (San Fernando Valley). Beyond that, those pursuing advanced education have community colleges in Santa Monica (SMCC) and the San Fernando Valley (Pierce) and public universities including UCLA and California State University in Northridge. Indeed my granddaughter returned to live with me to attend Santa Monica Community College prior to entering Columbia University, graduating Magna Cum Laude, I am proud to say. All of this, suffice it to say, elaborates on the theme that Topanga is an integrated community offering a rich and unique educational experience.

I urge the Commission to retain the unincorporated town of Topanga and their contiguous communities in the San Fernando Valley, the Las Virgenes Valley, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles within the same Senate District, because this effectively serves a diverse constituency and exhibits an established, common community of interest with regards to educational opportunities K-12, and higher education. Thank you for your consideration.

#402

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I have lived in Topanga since 1971 - all of my adult life really. I was born in Manhattan and when I called my parents in 1973 to tell them I was getting divorced my mother asked if I was "coming home". I had to tell her that I was already home. Topanga was my home the first time I drove into it.

Topanga is one indivisible community. For me it is even more than a community - it is a state of mind, a way of life, a living thing. We have a bumper sticker that says "Don't change Topanga, let Topanga change you" and if you live in Topanga you understand.

We are bound together geographically, environmentally, geologically by so many things - our Santa Monica Mountains, our valleys, our creeks, our beaches and our parks. We are also bound by our many civic organizations. We have the Topanga Town Council, the Topanga Community Club (formerly the Women's Club - how times change!), the Topanga Association for a Scenic Community, the Arson Watch, T-CEP, which organizes our emergency preparedness, the Topanga Chamber of Commerce, the Topanga Sages, the Topanga Canyon Gallery, the Topanga Historical Society (Topanga is an historic, 150 year-old community with its own History Book), and more. We have our own newspaper, the Topanga Messenger (established 35 years ago), and our own elementary school, Topanga Elementary - what else? We have our own Post Office and our own zip code: Topanga 90290; County Fire Station, and a brand new County Library which will open its doors in December; two small shopping centers, four restaurants and two coffee shops - and not a franchise in sight. As an unincorporated community within the Third Supervisorial District, we have been proud to participate over the years as an important stakeholder in all manner of issues, including land-use, preservation of open spaces, and watershed management. We are referred to as a "village", a "small town", but we are never referred to as divided!

But as much as our geography and organizations tie us together, our people also are bound together as a community of like minded residents. We are artists, musicians, entertainment professionals, and writers; we are teachers and small business owners, and working people. Over 65% of our adult population has one more college degrees. Many people work at home.And those who work outside the Canyon often have artistic pursuits they follow when they come home. We are independent, self reliant folk, but in times of emergency we come together - whether it is a fire, a flood or a threat to our way of life. We spent fifteen years - yes, years, battling developers on the north end of the Canyon - and the protests and testimony at the Regional Planning Commission came from people throughout the Canyon and surrounding areas: The City of Calabasas and the City of Malibu supported our quest to preserve 605 acres, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was able to acquire

the property for public land. There is no dividing this Canyon. No lopping off a piece here or there. We are one.

We are surrounded by our friends in Malibu, Pacific Palisades, and Santa Monica; Calabasas, Woodland Hills and Agoura Hills. We share our mountain ranges, our beaches and our watersheds. We share our school districts, water districts, roads, and highways. We go to the movies and shop in Calabasas, Woodland Hills and Santa Monica. Our hiking trails go clear up to Agoura Hills and that is where our local Costco is, too. If there is an accident on Pacific Coast Highway, State Route 27 Topanga Canyon Boulevard has a traffic jam. We all have faced fires and floods. We have lived together as a unit for decades, bound by the ocean, the 101 Freeway, the end of Malibu and Ocean Park. I urge the Commission to retain these communities and boundaries within the same Senate District. To remove any one of our communities would harm us all and the tremendous collaboration that has thrived between our State and local governments to preserve and protect the open spaces we all cherish.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Reik
Topanga Community Club, former Board Member; Topanga Town Council, former Board Member;
Topanga Association for a Scenic Community, Topanga Historical Society.

#14

Good Evening Commissioners,

My name is Keith Chatprapachai, I am a first generation Thai American. I am currently a Secretary General of the Thai American Chamber of Commerce of California. Thank you on behalf of the Thai Chamber for allowing me to speak today regarding the redistricting surrounding Thai Town which runs along Hollywood Blvd. from Normandie to Western Ave.

There are over 100 Thai business owners in this area and over 30,000 plus Thais living around there. In the past 10 years, according to the 2000 census, there were only 135,000 Thai people living in the US, I won't be surprised to see Census 2010 survey that would show over 100,000 Thais just in the greater LA area alone.

Thai people are hard working just like any other ethnic groups like Korean, and Pilipino, who came to this country for better opportunities for employment, education, building a family, and a better future for our children.

We are not familiar with the importance of being part of the political arena and being represented by an elected official through elections. Therefore, we did not know who represented us and cared to listen to our problems.

We hope to have a geographic area below the Hollywood Hills bounded by the 10 FWY and the 110 FWY included in one Assembly District, one State Senate and one Congressional District.

The area would also include all of greater Korea Town, Thai Town and Historic Pilipino Town encompassing the hearts of these three big Asian communities in southern California.

The current district lines divide these communities from each other.

We are not telling you (the Commission) were to draw the lines, only asking that the lines include this area and these unique communities.

Thank you.

81

#81

NorthEast Los Angeles

Good evening Commissioners, my name is Carol Jacques and I am a native Angeleno. I was born in Chavez Ravine, I've lived in I have lived in Silver Lake, Echo Park, El Sereno, Lincoln Heights, Atwater Village and now I live in Mt. Washington. I am proud to be part of North East Los Angeles and proud to be part of the communities along the Los Angeles River.

I understand that new laws say that Districts shall be drawn in compact ways that protects communities of interest and that they shouldn't divide cities or counties--- the City of Angeles due to it's 4 million residents will be divided in ways unlike any other city in the State.

In Northeast LA, we are a crossroads for elected representatives. Some of them are based in Los Angeles and some based in Pasadena, Burbank and La Canada. I urge the Commissioners to keep the city of Los Angeles communities together- don't follow the "sins" of the past that spilt our neighborhoods at major streets instead of recognizing those streets as hubs for human activity. Streets like York Ave., Eagle Rock Blvd. or Figueroa Street cannot be divides anymore--- these are hubs where people from these neighborhoods come together to shop, to eat and to get everyday service.

The communities I have been a part of have a special history and unique connection to each other. We are Angelenos. We are a mestizaje--- a mixture of history, culture and civic pride. We have a Downtown, a common school district and a common public safety service. We are different than our neighbors in Glendale or Pasadena or Burbank. We have more in common and more to share with our neighbors in Los Angeles.

For the past 6 years, I have served as a commissioner for the City of Los Angeles' El Pueblo Historic Monument--- some of you may know it as Olvera Street. El Pueblo is made up diverse histories including Native American, Chinese, Italian, Mexican and Immigrant. It's a historic core that ties together other older enclaves like Echo Park, Atwater Village, Cypress Park, Mount Washington/ Glassel Park, Highland Park, Lincoln Heights and Boyle Heights. The communities share history and cultural roots--- and that cannot be diminished and should be drawn in maps together.

Finally, the LA River is undergoing a renaissance as a space for community. In the past it existed as a divide and separation but today it is a point of unification for

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recreation, culture and art. Major investment and planning has occurred to change the future of the river and the results are showing. Whether having a wedding over at the river center, watching kids play soccer at the newly built Rio de Los Angeles State Park or riding a bike down the river bed--- this area is uniquely connected from downtown to Los Feliz Blvd. (where the river turns and changes).

Our communities are connected and drawn together--- we are Angelenos--- and having the opportunity to elect representatives that are aware of our common histories and common issues is fair and clearly a community of interest that must remain intact.

Commissioners deal with Los Angeles as a unique and special case and keep its communities together and connected with its heart and its history in Downtown Los Angeles. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carol Jacques

CAROL JACQUES

[redacted]