

Region 4 - Los Angeles

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May 4, 2011

Citizen Redistricting Commission
1130 K St, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I have been a resident of Malibu since 1976, for 35 years. I have been a member of many organizations in my community. My daughter attended preschool in the Pacific Palisades and K-12 school in Malibu. I have been active in the Santa Monica Malibu School District and was on a committee to distribute school bond funds for construction throughout the district. I was a member of an advisory board for CALTRANS to increase safety. I have been a member of the Malibu Rotary Club for over twenty years. I was an active member of the Santa Monica Bay Estuary Project Commission, created by then Congressman Mel Levine, to bring all of the watersheds of Santa Monica Bay together to reduce pollution in Santa Monica Bay. I was involved in the first Malibu Creek Watershed planning effort, to bring all of the upland areas that are tributary to Malibu Creek together to reduce pollution to one of the most important environmental assets of this region, Malibu Lagoon.

Through these many efforts I have seen a community of interest grow between the communities of Malibu and Santa Monica with many school, community college and transportation issues to deal with together. There is also an important community of interest between the City of Malibu, and other cities and county unincorporated areas of the Santa Monica Mountains around water quality, beach and coast protection and access, fire protection in a hazardous area, and road access with very limited access routes through Pacific Coast Highway and the three major canyon access points that we all depend upon.

Topanga Canyon, Malibu Canyon and Kanan Dume Roads are critical roads for access for all of the communities of the Santa Monica Mountains, and for those who come to work along the coast from the Conejo and San Fernando Valleys and the LA Basin. All of these canyon roads are subject to floods, landslides, mud/rock slides and fire hazard. Pacific Coast Highway is also subject to wave hazard. Closures of these roads represent a critical threat for all of the communities that are most dependent on them as there are no real alternatives to get to and from the valley and the coast except for these roads. These roads are critical regional alternatives to people travelling on the Ventura Freeway through the Conejo and San Fernando Valley.

For these reasons, I recommend boundaries for our state senate district that includes the following:

- The cities of Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura, and Santa Monica,

- the City of Los Angeles communities of Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Bel Air, Westwood, West Hills, Woodland Hills, Tarzana and Encino who abut the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains.
- The area east of Calabasas and south of the 101 corridor which is strongly tied, as a commuter route to the canyon roads and Pacific Coast Highway.
- The LA County unincorporated areas of the Santa Monica Mountains that surround and abut the cities above.
- The area east of the 405 freeway south of the Santa Monica Mountains including Bel Air, Westwood, Beverly Hills and West Hollywood.

These areas share the many common interests I identified above and more:

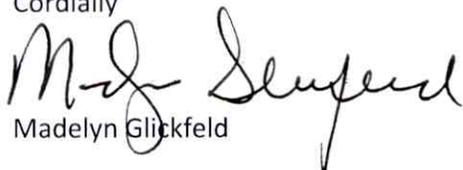
Fires often start in the Simi Hills or in the northern edges of the Santa Monica Mountains and can be in Malibu in fifteen minutes. Many park lands are managed by a multitude of federal and state agencies in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation area, which includes the areas above. Now over 50% of the lands in the National Recreation Area are in state and federal park ownership. State and Federal park authorities play a critical role in managing the park for fire hazard and are a key part of the fire fighting force for the Santa Monica Mountains. These parks require elected representatives that insure there are resources to steward these lands for safe recreational use and have adequate resources to prevent and fight fires.

Traffic problems on the Ventura Freeway, the canyon roads, or Pacific Coast Highway can quickly cripple all three systems. Santa Monica Mountain Parks and beaches are key recreational destinations for everyone in the areas identified above. People in these communities are tied together by these issues as well as by community organizations, schools, mutual projects by cities and the county, and many other cross cutting ties. Most importantly, it is critical that the western Los Angeles County coast from Santa Monica to the County line and the Western portion of the Santa Monica Mountains from the County line to West Hollywood be considered a community of common interest.

In addition, UCLA is a major focal point of community interest. A vast number of UCLA students, faculty, staff and alumni make up a significant percentage of the residents in these communities. Having a common representative that will support the funding of this public university has been essential in the past. I recommend that all of these areas be in one legislative and congressional district.

I have lived here during the time that the Santa Monica Mountains ridgelines were the demarking line between legislative districts and that was very much to the detriment of the communities in this area. When this was the case, legislators with districts that included valley communities far from the Santa Monica Mountains were not interested in promoting safe roads, public transportation, the conservation, safe recreational use of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and its beaches, and emergency disaster prevention for fires, floods and landslides. We have improved the quality of life in so many ways, with the help of our legislators since the Santa Monica Mountains, abutting communities and coastline has been in a single district. Please don't return us to the days of a split Santa Monica Mountains.

Cordially


Madelyn Gluckfeld