

REMARKS TO THE  
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

By Marc Stirdivant

4/30/11

Members of the Commission

My name is Marc Stirdivant and I am a fourteen year resident of the City of Glendale. I am here today to ask for your consideration for keeping the Cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena together as you go about redefining the boundaries of our assembly, state senate, and particularly our congressional district.

These cities are the very definition of a Community of Interest. They are geographically contiguous. People in these cities share a common standard of living. Glendaleans shop in Pasadena and Burbank, and residents of Burbank and Pasadena shop in Glendale. The three cities are the joint owners of the Bob Hope Airport. They also share resources for public safety including police helicopter patrol. And they are connected by California State Route 2 – the 134 Freeway.

But I would like to specifically address the value of keeping these cities together from an environmental standpoint.

While I am here speaking as an individual, I want to mention that I also serve on the Board of Directors of several land preservation organizations within these communities including Glendale Crescenta VOICE, the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy, the Glendale Parks and Open Space Foundation. I also represent the City of Glendale on the Advisory Committee of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

From an environmental and land use standpoint, the three cities have much in common. Each city has set aside substantial amounts of open space for public recreational use – and much of this open space is contiguous. Glendale shares the Verdugo Mountains with Burbank and the San Rafael Hills with Pasadena. Glendale and Pasadena are adjacent to the front range of the San Gabriel Mountains. The three cities – along with several – others form the eastern end of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor.

I might add that on the Advisory Committee to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, representatives from these three cities meet quarterly to discuss common issues relating to open space preservation.

The open space areas of the three cities share the commonality of the Mediterranean chaparral ecosystem. And while the cities do have boundaries, the flora and fauna that inhabit the three cities recognize no such boundaries and freely move from place to place. The mountain lion that is in Burbank one morning might easily be in Glendale that afternoon. The invasive species in Glendale's San Rafael Hills can easily migrate into Pasadena's open space.

Similarly, the hiker accessing the San Rafael Hills from the Glendale side might quickly find himself descending into Pasadena. The same holds true for the mountain biker who ascends in Burbank and descends in Glendale.

In addition, Burbank and Glendale each have frontage along the Los Angeles River. I work for the Glendale Parks Department and can tell you that we have had discussions with Burbank about providing connectivity along our portions of the river for pedestrians, equestrians, and cyclists.

We've also held meetings with Burbank and Pasadena on trail connectivity in the Verdugos and the San Rafaels.

So from a management standpoint, it makes absolute sense for these cities to remain together.

I am sure you will hear from others regarding additional reasons for these cities to remain part of the same legislative districts – from transportation issues to public safety concerns. But I hope you will also consider the environmental and land use commonalities that these three cities share, as you make your decision about these cities' future.

Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena. They deserve to be together

Thank you.