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Citizen Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
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Dear Members,

I am writing to urge you to preserve the community of interest Santa Monica already shares in Senate District 23 with Malibu, Topanga, Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, and West Los Angeles, as well as Santa Monica Mountain communities stretching west to the Ventura County line.

Besides representing constituents in my own city, I currently serve as co-chair of the Sustainability Committee for the Westside Cities Council of Governments: Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, West Los Angeles and Culver City, a municipality not currently included in our 23rd Senate District. Our Westside COG's work is focused on cooperative efforts for a natural bioregional community defined by the shared watershed and air basin of the Santa Monica Mountains and the westside of greater Los Angeles.

Because the preservation of the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains requires teamwork from both sides of "the hill," we have enjoyed the benefits of a 23rd District that also includes the communities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village. Those communities constitute a Council of Governments with Malibu, and Malibu and Santa Monica together have a single Unified School District.

Further, all our communities share vital transportation corridors, through which Santa Monica serves as a destination for employment, beach access, and entertainment. I'd urge you to include the entire range of the Santa Monica Mountains from Hollywood west to the Ventura County line in the 23rd Senate District.

We in Santa Monica share daunting mobility issues with municipalities to the east, and so our community of interest on traffic issues, and on transit solutions, must include all neighbors to the east at least as far as West Hollywood.

And, of course, in the end all of the Westside's problems seem to flow into Santa Monica Bay, of which our city is proud steward. We in our community of interest benefit greatly from joint representation from areas in our watershed, which coincides with the Mountains and cities to the east already listed. Cities to the south are in a different series of watersheds.

The communities I've listed include eight separate incorporated cities of under 100,000, all of which have a history of productive cooperation, and who benefit from the stronger voice of unified representation. I ask that you take my comments under consideration as you define the 23rd State Senate District.

Sincerely,