

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, California 95814
votersinstruct@arc.ca.gov

RE: keeping the 23rd^d Senate District intact

Dear Redistricting Commission:

When I think about what makes Los Angeles unique, the first thing that comes to my mind is the Santa Monica Mountains. I don't know of any other city in the world that has such a swath of wilderness running right through its urban heart! My wife and I often play host to visitors from other countries, and it is always a pleasure to see their astonishment when they are introduced to this totally unexpected side of L.A. They're expecting movie studios and city lights and white sand beaches - but not this. Not the rugged mountain terrain, the hiking trails and wildflowers, the coyotes howling under the stars!

What I think I find so compelling about the existing 23rd Senate District is the fact that it respects the mountains. Laid out in 1991, it extends along the Pacific coast from Santa Monica to Malibu, runs along both sides of the Santa Monica range, and includes the cities of Las Virgenes and Topanga. All of these regions are inside or adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), established by Congress in 1978. SMMNRA is known throughout the country as a model of collaboration between national, state, and local agencies.

I am privileged to live in the Santa Monica Mountains, and I feel strongly that they are an absolutely vital resource and that the continued flourishing of Los Angeles in the decades (and centuries!) to come depends on the care we take of them today. Please keep the 23rd Senate District intact - including the city of Santa Monica, which shares so much history, culture, and infrastructure with its neighbors in the district. If it works, don't fix it!

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Mark Stratton

Los Angeles, California 90049