

Subject: Redistricting: Sunland-Tujunga - Crescenta Valley

From: "Marcelle Keehne" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 20 Jun 2011 23:03:44 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

Hello, my name is Marcelle Keehne. I live in North Hollywood but I have family that lives in Tujunga near the border between the cities of Los Angeles and Glendale. I watched my granddaughters grow up in a very special place – sharing the foothills, the valley and a number of common issues within the the Crescenta Valley.

Currently you have included the communities of Sunland-Tujunga/Shadow Hills/La Tuna Canyon in the same district as North Hollywood and other eastern end San Fernando Valley communities.

I don't see much in common with Sunland-Tujunga and the SFV, other than they are all part of Los Angeles. Sunland-Tujunga/Shadow Hills/La Tuna Canyon share more in common with the foothill communities of the Crescenta Valley. Each community is involved with issues relating to their beautiful mountains and foothills, and the protection of those vulnerable hillsides. A number of the communities share an equestrian lifestyle, as well as other bicycling, hiking, backpacking. They also share similar planning concerns, wanting to protect the valley and mountains, as well as the Foothill Boulevard corridor.

One of my granddaughters loved the foothills so much that when she and her husband were looking for a house they focused on the foothills, eventually finding a home in Altadena. I would say, and likely my granddaughter as well, Sunland-Tujunga/Shadow Hills/La Tuna Canyon share much more in common with foothill communities to their east rather than the flatlands of the eastern San Fernando Valley.

Marcelle Keehne

[REDACTED]

North Hollywood, CA 91606

Subject: Whittier Area Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional Districts

From: Matt Berkelhammer [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, 20 Jun 2011 20:20:57 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

Statement by Matt Berkelhammer
to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Hearing, 6/17/2011, Whittier, CA

Good evening. My name is Matt Berkelhammer, and I live at 7515 Vanport Avenue, Whittier, CA 90606, in the unincorporated part of Los Angeles county known as West Whittier, sometimes known as Los Nietos. I own my own home and have lived here since 1985.

When I first moved to California from NY in the late 1970's, I settled in Los Angeles. However, after I began work as a machine operator at Ryerson Steel in the city of Vernon in 1980, I moved to Pico Rivera in order to live closer to my job and avoid long rush hour commutes. After a few years living in Pico Rivera, I decided to purchase a home and moved to my current residence in West Whittier.

I believe that the City of Whittier, as well as all the unincorporated portions of LA county known as East Whittier, South Whittier, and West Whittier, should all be included in the same Assembly District, the same State Senatorial District, and the same Congressional District. Whittier and surrounding communities should not be fragmented as they are now.

In addition, I believe that the cities surrounding Whittier and unincorporated Whittier, including especially Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Montebello, Norwalk, Downey, La Habra, and La Habra Heights, should also be the nucleus of the same Assembly District, the same State Senatorial District, and the same Congressional District.

These communities are closely connected and share a long history and common interests, dating back to the Pio Pico homestead, which sits right on the border of Whittier and Pico Rivera. And by the way, this State Historic Park must be saved from the budget cuts currently being proposed in Sacramento!

These communities are linked by their proximity to the San Gabriel River and the 605 Freeway, and as the northern end of the Gateways Cities corridor that extends all the way down to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. They are further linked by family migration patterns, and common shopping, recreation, educational, and health care services. For example, my children went to El Rancho HS in Pico Rivera

and Pioneer HS in Santa Fe Springs; I frequently shop in Whittier, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, Montebello, and Downey; and I obtain my health care services from Kaiser in Downey and Whittier.

The proposed Eastside Transit Corridor light rail project, in either configuration, but especially the Washington Boulevard alternative, will most certainly draw these communities even closer together. The cities of Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, and Downey should not be split up, as they are in the current proposed maps.

As you know, according to the 2010 Census figures, the population of the City of Whittier currently consists of 85,331 people, of whom 65.72% are Hispanic or Latino, 28.27% are white (not Hispanic or Latino), 3.82% are Asian, 1.28% are Black or African American, 1.28% are American Indian and Alaska Native, .14% are Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and 4.45% are of two or more races. 24.43% list themselves as “some other race”.

It is unfortunate that this overwhelming and growing Latino majority has been unable to secure any representation on the Whittier City Council going back decades, and I understand that is not your area of responsibility. But this must change!

The proposal by Joe Vinatieri and the Whittier City Council to create a new Assembly District for Whittier, including Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights, and stretching from Whittier all the way east to Diamond Bar, does not correspond to community realities. It appears to be politically motivated to increase Republican representation, and will certainly have the effect of diluting Hispanic and Latino representation. I hope you will reject that proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Subject: Maps for Long Beach

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 21 Jun 2011 01:13:57 -0400 (EDT)

To: [REDACTED]

Redistricting Commission:

I am writing to urge you to keep Long Beach whole in all three maps (Senate, Assembly, and Congress). The 2010 census data showed seven out of nine city council districts have large Hispanic populations which have been increasing over time. Also Long Beach Unified School District has a large Hispanic population in K-12. Any claims that you hear that Long Beach is split west/east or north/south by race or culture is pure bunk.

Long Beach is a large city of unique neighborhoods. As such, each neighborhood has a small town feeling. But, make no mistake about it, Long Beach is one city, served by one school district, one gas department, one water department, and its boundaries are well defined by waterways and freeways. I am disturbed by some of the testimony you are hearing, urging you to split Long Beach into north and south or east and west areas. As you can imagine, many of those testifying are themselves former or current elected officials who are eyeing their next run. It is dismaying to me that they are putting their own ambition before the good of the city of Long Beach.

To allow them to sway your decisions, one way or the other, will only return the redistricting effort to the same political cronyism that virtually eliminated the intended competitiveness of the political process in the State of California..

You did a great job with the maps. Let's keep 'em!

Darrell Bice
Long Beach resident

Subject: Congratulations

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, 20 Jun 2011 21:58:18 -0400 (EDT)

To: [REDACTED]

California grew first by counties. The county lines were the most meaningful demarcations, reflecting our history and geography. For the majority of our history since 1850, California State Senators were elected by *COUNTY*. At no place is the county line more legitimately definitive than it is between Los Angeles County and Orange County.

Thank you for your work.

Andrew Kincaid

[REDACTED]
Long Beach, CA 90803

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Proposed 36th District

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, 20 Jun 2011 19:16:43 EDT

To: [REDACTED]

To: California Redistricting Commission

From: Gerald Marcil

Re: Proposed 36th District

Dear Commission,

I applaud you for the changes you are proposing as it connects most of us to the communities where we do business in or were raised in. I live in Palos Verdes Estates, I lived in Torrance and Redondo Beach for the first 29 years of my life and my business is South Bay apartment management. This is a very typical scenario for those of us who live on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Palos Verdes is a bedroom community.

I do not believe however that the proposed district is optimally drawn. Why is Santa Monica in our proposed district? Santa Monica is considered a "Westside" city, not part of the South Bay. They have completely different issues from the South Bay. I'm pretty sure Santa Monicans would agree. This probably holds true for Venice as well.

If you have to replace Santa Monica/Venice. You should pick a SOUTH BAY city like Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Harbor City. The issues in the South Bay businesses, schools, parks, etc. are much more homogeneous than issues of the "Westside".

Thank you for considering this information.

Sincerely,

Gerald Marcil

[REDACTED]

Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274



City of
SANTA CLARITA

██████████ Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196
██

June 20, 2011

Marsha McLean
Mayor

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K St., Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Laurie Ender
Mayor Pro Tem

Dear California Redistricting Commission:

Frank Ferry
Councilmember

I am writing to you regarding the first draft of legislative district maps the California Redistricting Commission released on Friday, June 10, 2011. First and foremost, on behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council, I want to thank the Commissioners for acting favorably on the testimony that we previously provided to you in person on April 30 and May 1, and again through additional written testimony on May 23. The Santa Clarita City Council, on behalf of our 176,320 residents, requested that the City of Santa Clarita not be divided among two or more legislative districts. The first round of maps demonstrates that you honored our request by placing the City of Santa Clarita and the majority of the surrounding Santa Clarita Valley within single Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization Districts. We appreciate the commission's efforts in retaining the integrity of our City's borders and communities of interest.

Bob Kellar
Councilmember

Laurene Weste
Councilmember

We are, however, concerned about the first draft of congressional district maps that were created for our area. The City of Santa Clarita currently finds itself contained within two different congressional districts. The majority of our community is contained within the proposed Antelope Valley/Santa Clarita district. However, approximately 18% of our residents find themselves separated from their neighbors, having been placed in the proposed West San Fernando Valley/Calabasas congressional district. We are extremely concerned that neighborhoods within the City of Santa Clarita are being divided. There is a strong sense of community among all the residents of Santa Clarita and we believe it is appropriate that the entire City of Santa Clarita be placed within the proposed Antelope Valley/Santa Clarita congressional district.

We estimate that approximately 31,340 people in Santa Clarita are currently part of the proposed West San Fernando Valley/Calabasas Congressional District. We strongly urge that these residents be placed into the proposed Antelope Valley/Santa Clarita district and commensurate population adjustments are made to the proposed districts in Ventura County and the San Fernando Valley.



Citizens Redistricting Commission

June 20, 2011

Page 2

We know the residents of the San Fernando Valley are concerned about having their communities divided and an opportunity certainly exists, with some minor modifications to the proposed maps, to keep neighborhoods in the City of Santa Clarita and the San Fernando Valley in single districts that are reflective of their communities of interest.

Since the Santa Clarita Valley is a self-contained geographic area, the residents of the incorporated and unincorporated areas share many unifying conditions, including geographic, economic, social, climatic, watershed, and political boundaries. Again, by placing the entire Santa Clarita Valley community within a single congressional district, the Commission will be able to successfully meet one of its key criteria, and preserve important neighborhood connections that have already been formed and will last for years to come.

On behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council, thank you very much for your consideration of our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Marsha McLean
Mayor

MM:MPM:cb:cf

S:\MS\Casey B\Letter & Email Responses\Mayor Redistricting CRC Draft Maps.doc

cc: Members of the City Council
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Ken Pulskamp, City Manager
Ken Striplin, Assistant City Manager
Michael Murphy, Intergovernmental Relations Officer
Casey Bingham, Administrative Analyst

Subject: senate district

From: Mary Ellen Strote <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 20 Jun 2011 23:18:31 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Friends:

The Santa Monica Mountains, their parks and seashores and the communities that depend on them economically, ecologically and culturally should not be divided. I urge you to keep them together in the same State Assembly and Senate districts.

We the public were told that your commission would utilize county lines and major transportation corridors to define districts and that you would not draw "gerrymandered" lines that create misshapen, non-navigable districts. Yet the current map for the district that would replace the old 23rd Senate District is a poster child for precisely what you promised not to do.

It is squeezed in the middle as if a tourniquet had been applied, and the constricted area connects communities that have nothing at all in common and none of the highly advertised "communities of interest" that you promised to combine. The businesses, tourism interests, environmental organizations and homeowners groups that focus on the Pacific Coast Highway, the 101 Freeway, the cross-canyon roads and the Santa Monica Mountains need to stay together as a unit.

Please consider the voters' desire to have a logical, comprehensible Senate District that can work in tandem with its Assembly Districts and local governments (Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, LA County, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, etc.) that share school districts, water districts, sheriff's departments, etc.

Thanks for reading my comments,

Mary Ellen Strote

[REDACTED]
Calabasas, CA 91302