

Region 4: Los Angeles

City of Downey



FUTURE UNLIMITED

June 14, 2011

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JUN 21 2011

CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR

LUIS H. MARQUEZ

MAYOR PRO TEM

ROGER C. BROSSMER

COUNCIL MEMBERS

DAVID R. GAFIN
Dr. MARIO A. GUERRA
FERNANDO VASQUEZ

CITY MANAGER

GERALD M. CATON

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Fax: [REDACTED]

Per _____

Subject: "One Downey"

Dear Commissioners:

As Mayor of the City of Downey, I am writing to you with regard to the California Redistricting Process. I would like to congratulate the Commission on its open process and its hard work up to this point. I have reviewed the first draft of the proposed maps for State Assembly, State Senate, Board of Equalization and Congressional Districts, and have mixed feelings regarding the proposal. The preliminary map for Congressional Districts released on June 7, 2011 was more appropriate and better matched the Commission's stated priorities.

As you know, the community of Downey is 138 years old, and has been an incorporated City for 55 years, providing its own police, fire, and water as well as its own Unified School District. Because the City is located between the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers, and substantially enclosed by the Interstate 5, 605, 710 and 105 freeways, the Commission's proposal to locate that the City wholly within one State Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization District is entirely appropriate.

However, the proposed Congressional District plan carves 10,000 Downey residents away from the rest of the City, without regard to our long-standing geographic and political boundaries. The entirety of the City of Downey should remain within one Congressional District, and the division of neighborhoods by the proposed Congressional Districts is unacceptable. Furthermore, it violates the Commission's own stated principles:

- It violates not just the geographic integrity of the City of Downey as a whole, but also separates individual neighborhoods in Downey, carving out a portion of the school district, and splitting up two city council districts
- It ignores the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers and the I-710 and I-605 freeways that are the natural west and east boundaries of the City
- Instead of keeping the whole of Downey in one compact geographic unit with its longtime regional partners in the Gateway Cities COG, the proposed Congressional District forces 10% of the city into a district with constituents more than 13 miles away

I urge you to reconsider the first draft Congressional District lines and employ the same principles you used in drawing the State Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization Districts to keep the whole of Downey's united community within one Congressional District.

Sincerely,

Luis H. Marquez
Mayor



JUN 17 2011

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Per _____

June 17, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street
Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commission:

I am writing to express my concern over the separation of Pasadena and Altadena in the redistricting of Assembly districts. Altadena is an unincorporated area north of Pasadena that is very closely tied to Pasadena; in fact they are part of the same school district. Altadena is also joined to Pasadena commercially and culturally.

I know this circumstance intimately since I was an Assemblymember of the 44th District (1996-2000) and a Senator of the 21st District (2000-2008). In all that time Pasadena and Altadena were part of the same district. Furthermore, I have been a resident of Altadena for over twenty years.

I would deeply appreciate your correcting this matter in the final drawing of district lines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Scott".

Jack Scott, Ph.D.
Chancellor



CITY OF LA VERNE RECEIVED
CITY HALL

JUN 21 2011

California 91750-3599

Per _____

June 15, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Redistricting Commission Draft Map Boundaries

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to express the La Verne City Council's concern with the preliminary boundaries of the Congressional Districts for our area. As outlined in the current proposal, the City of La Verne will be split between two congressional districts (Covina and San Gabriel Mountain Foothills). We respectfully request the boundaries be adjusted in order to allow our City to be placed in one.

We believe that our representation at the federal level is better served by one elected official as opposed two. In the past, having one representative has enabled us to develop a good working relationship with our representative and their staff. Further, it allows the representative to gain a better understanding our community and the issues that affect us as whole.

We also believe this change has the potential to create confusion during elections. While larger communities have district designations for local representation, as a smaller community of only nine square miles and a population of 32,000 all of our elected officials serve the community at-large.

Lastly, the proposed boundary would divide our community. Since Interstate 210 was completed it has been a concern of ours that it would create a barrier between residents to the north from those to the south. As a small town, we take pride and effort in being one community with common goals and interests. It is our wish for it to remain and do not see two districts as working to that end.

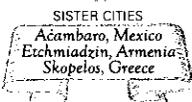
Given these points, we respectfully request that the commission reconsider this aspect of their map and evaluate readjusting the boundaries to allow the City of La Verne to be wholly placed within either the Covina or the San Gabriel Mountain Foothills District.

Sincerely,

Don Kendrick
Mayor

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- General Administration [redacted] • Water Customer Service [redacted] • Parks & Community Services [redacted]
- Public Works [redacted] • Finance [redacted] • Community Development [redacted] • Building [redacted]
- Police Department [redacted] • Fire Department [redacted] • General Fax [redacted]



City of Diamond Bar



[Redacted] • Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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JUN 21 2011

Per _____

June 14, 2011

Ms. Jodie Filkins Webber, Chair
Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Filkins Webber:

The City of Diamond Bar has reviewed the Commission's recently released first draft maps for its proposed Assembly, Senate, and Congressional district boundaries. While we believe the Commission has done an admirable job in crafting Diamond Bar's proposed Assembly and Senate Districts we have serious concerns regarding the draft Congressional district (known as San Gabriel Valley-Diamond Bar on the map) in which our community would reside.

As currently drawn, the boundaries tie the most northwestern point of the San Gabriel Valley, Pasadena, to the most southeastern, Diamond Bar. It goes without saying that the social, economic, and transportation issues of these vastly different corners of the very diverse San Gabriel Valley differ greatly. There is no question in our minds that these proposed boundaries will have dramatic negative effects on the efforts to secure the federal funding required to complete the SR-57/60 Confluence Project in Diamond Bar and the Gold Line completion on the western side of the Valley, and we believe that sharing a single representative will put these competing interests at constant odds.

The Commission has widely stated that the division of communities of interest should be minimized. We fail to see any valid connection or interest between Diamond Bar and cities like Pasadena, Alhambra, and Monterey Park. Diamond Bar's current Congressional district boundary is drawn to include cities with similar characteristics – primarily residential bedroom communities with less than 100,000 residents. Diamond Bar is most similar to communities like Chino Hills, Brea, Yorba Linda, Walnut, Fullerton, and Rowland Heights, sharing not only lower densities and local economic interests, but the some of the last open spaces in all of Southern California. Areas on the western half of the proposed district are much more urbanized with greater densities, and have little of the environmental interests than Diamond Bar must always consider. Without sharing these vital characteristics, it is clear that the Commission's proposal disregards its own concept of communities of interest.

Simply put, the communities on the southeastern end of the San Gabriel Valley face much different, but no less important issues than those in and around larger cities like Pasadena and Glendale and require distinct representation. The lack of proximity

Steve Tye
Mayor

Ling-Ling Chang
Mayor Pro Tem

Ron Everett
Council Member

Carol Herrera
Council Member

Jack Tanaka
Council Member

between the ends of the district and the significantly different interests of the communities will only add to the problems.

As currently drawn, the City of Diamond Bar opposes the Commission's proposed Congressional district known as "San Gabriel Valley-Diamond Bar". Should you have any questions, please call [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Tye". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "T".

Steve Tye
Mayor, City of Diamond Bar

CC: City Council, City Manager

REGION 4: LOS ANGELES

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JUN 21 2011


La Habra Heights, California 90631

Per _____

June 16, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street
Suite 154A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission Members:

Thank you for all you are doing to redistrict our state in a fair and equitable way. As a recently retired long time member of the Board of Trustees of the Lowell Joint School District, I would like to suggest that strong consideration be given to having La Habra Heights, which is in Los Angeles County, included in the proposed Los Angeles County Congressional District which includes Whittier, La Mirada and Downey. The majority of the Lowell Joint School District is in Whittier and La Habra Heights both of which are in Los Angeles County. Therefore, it would seem better to have the constituents of LJSD who reside in La Habra Heights represented by the Congressman representing Whittier and Los Angeles County.

It seems it would make good sense if the Congressional District could be aligned with the proposed State Assembly and Senate Districts. It would be greatly appreciated if this could be accomplished as it would bring together communities which have had and continue to have much in common.

Thank you for all your good efforts and for your consideration of this suggestion.

Sincerely,



Janet B. Averill

REGION 4: LOS ANGELES

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JUN 21 2011

John G. Powers

La Habra Heights, CA 90631

Per _____

Citizen Redistricting Commission
901 P Street
Suite 154A
Sacramento, CA 95814

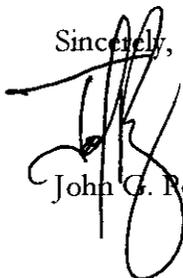
Dear Citizen Redistricting Commission Members;

As a now retired Mayor for the City of La Habra Heights for three of the nine years serving on the city council, I would like to thank you for the work you have done on the proposed State Assembly and Senate District for La Habra Heights in the First Draft. I am very interested in the districts that are being drawn by your Commission and I was so pleased to see the proposed State Assembly and Senate Districts. I am however, very concerned regarding the proposed lines drawn for our Congressional District. Our interests simply do not coincide with the majority of cities in that Congressional District. La Habra Heights has been cut off from the Los Angeles County cities with whom we work on an outgoing basis and whose challenges are more similar to ours.

La Habra Heights has always been very involved with the La Mirada, Downy and Whittier city councils, and the greater Los Angeles County communities since it incorporated in 1978. I would respectfully request that you reconsider the lines drawn for our proposed Congressional District. Considering our extraordinarily limited city staff, if you could align the Congressional District more closely to the cities that were included in the proposed State Assembly and Senate Districts, it would make a much better working arrangement for all of us. Our needs are quite similar.

Again, thank you for the work you are doing.

Sincerely,



John G. Powers