

REGION 2: SAN  
BERNARDINO

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July 18, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Extend San Bernardino Congressional District North Above Rancho Cucamonga to Include The San Gabriel Mountains**

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission:

The iconic San Gabriel Mountain range is located north of the 210 Freeway and runs from I-14 on the west in Los Angeles County to I-15 in the east in San Bernardino County. Citizens for the San Gabriel Mountains has recommended as a general redistricting principle that the federal public land in the San Gabriel Mountains be placed in the same Congressional Districts as the foothill and San Gabriel River watershed communities to the south of the range, which form a community of interest. These cities have extensive geographic, economic and recreational connections to the range and share this relationship with each other. These communities are home to the most frequent visitors to the federal public lands in the San Gabriels and they have the highest stake in the management of the range.

The Redistricting Commission has admirably recognized this principle of uniting foothill residents with their federal public lands in Los Angeles County Congressional Districts in all three of its visualizations. **We urge the Commission to complete this effort by placing the remaining section of San Gabriel Mountains to the north of Rancho Cucamonga in the same San Bernardino Congressional District as Rancho Cucamonga and to reflect this change in its visualizations of the district.** This change would also significantly improve the district's design by eliminating the choke point at the I-15 in northeastern Rancho Cucamonga. Currently, to the lay viewer the District looks like two Congressional Districts linked by a small portal. Our recommendation fixes this. Please see the attached a map of our recommended improvements in the district design.

We believe that all three of the current visualizations for the San Bernardino Congressional District fall short of the mark with the most heavily populated foothill city, Rancho Cucamonga, no longer in the same Congressional District as its backyard mountain range, the San Gabriel Mountains. This would be a step backwards. Residents of Rancho Cucamonga look north into the San Gabriel Mountains every day. Like the Pasadena area to the west, Rancho has a very intimate relationship with the range. The range provides a striking scenic backdrop to the city with snow-covered Ontario and Cucamonga Peaks often featured in city promotional materials on city websites. The city's 165,000 residents are frequent forest visitors according to Forest Service visitation studies. Rancho Cucamonga has a park and trail system that leads north into the San Gabriels. The San Gabriel watershed is an important source of the city's drinking water. Like the Pasadena area, Rancho Cucamonga is located near one of the major gateways to the San Gabriels off of the 210 Freeway. Mt. Baldy Road provides access for Rancho residents and other area residents to Mt. Baldy Village, its ski area, and many famous San Gabriel Mountain trails in

the Cucamonga Wilderness. Public safety issues, such as fire and debris management, are important to the city as they are to the other foothill cities in the community of interest.

We strongly recommend that the San Bernardino Congressional District, which includes Rancho Cucamonga, be expanded to the north to include the section of the San Gabriel Mountains in San Bernardino County that is located west of the I-15. Adjusting the proposed San Bernardino Congressional District can readily be accomplished by extending the district north from Rancho Cucamonga to the northern national forest boundary as has been done in Los Angeles County. The western district boundary in the San Gabriel Mountains would be the LA County line and the eastern boundary I-15. This change should be relatively easy since Baldy Village, Lytle Creek and Wrightwood are not heavily populated with roughly one-twentieth the population of Rancho Cucamonga.

It should be noted that the San Bernardino and Angeles National Forest have a strong history of cooperative management of the section of the San Gabriel Mountains that is located in San Bernardino County with a significant portion of it administered by the Angeles National Forest although it is technically located in the San Bernardino National Forest. The Baldy Village ranger station, for example, is staffed by the Angeles National Forest. The Wrightwood area has benefited from forest thinning projects administered by the Angeles. It should also be noted that the forest management issues facing the communities in the eastern San Gabriels – Wrightwood, Lytle Creek and Baldy Village – have far more in common with each other and foothill cities to the south such as Rancho Cucamonga than they do with the vast desert and Sierra public lands in Inyo and Mono Counties. For example, the fire landscape in the San Gabriels is dominated by Santa Ana winds and chaparral-driven brush fires such as the Station Fire; conditions like this do not exist in the desert and Sierras.

Again, we salute the Commission for recognizing the important link between foothill and watershed communities and their public lands in the San Gabriel Mountains. The Commission has done excellent job in Los Angeles County. We urge the Commission to finish this fine effort in the San Bernardino Congressional District in San Bernardino County above the major foothill city of Rancho Cucamonga. With this boundary adjustment the entire San Gabriel range and the citizens who have the strongest relationship with the mountains will be located in a series of well-designed Congressional Districts, which is very much to the public benefit.

Sincerely,

  
John Monsen,  
Citizens for the San Gabriel Mountains

Tujunga, CA 91042

Attachment: Proposed adjustment to the San Bernardino Congressional District to include the San Gabriel Mountains north of Rancho Cucamonga.

