

From: **Natalie McGill** [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, Mar 16, 2011 at 7:12 PM  
Subject: Neighborhood for Consideration  
To: [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov)

March 16, 2011

TO: California Citizens Redistricting Commission

I live in a unique area of Los Angeles called Elysian Valley. It is also a certified neighborhood council within the city and county of Los Angeles called the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council. I would like to submit the map and boundaries of my neighborhood for consideration of remaining a contiguous voting block for all aspects of your political boundaries.

The neighborhood is bounded between the US Interstate Five (highway 5) on the west side and the Los Angeles River on the east side.

While the neighborhood council district is the smallest of the neighborhood councils in Los Angeles with approximately 8,000 residents, the physical boundaries created by the freeway (built in the 1950s) and the river (concreted by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1930s) truly make this a contiguous voting area and indeed deserving of much consideration by your commission of remaining intact.

The neighborhood council was certified on July 9, 2002, was the 38th neighborhood council in Los Angeles, and is in the North East division of Los Angeles.

The most unique aspect of the neighborhood is its nickname of "Frog Town". The nickname developed sometime around 1950 because of a large increase in the frog population. This increase in population caused the frogs to seek out additional living areas outside of the river banks by traveling up and down the streets of the neighborhood looking for refuge in resident's yards. And, as you can imagine, they didn't make it across the freeway and remained contained in this small neighborhood between the river and the freeway. This has happened several times since, typically after a particularly rainy season and the name has stuck.

While the river is one of the outer boundaries of the neighborhood, it acts almost as the center of the neighborhood with a wonderful walk/bike path with many sitting places and is a destination for bird watchers and fishing enthusiasts. It is one of the very few areas in Los Angeles where you can see the heron bird in its natural habitat.

Elysian Valley is an urban neighborhood with a flat terrain. Most of the property owners are residential, but

some property is zoned for commercial and mixed use, primarily along the river. There is a growing artist community within the neighborhood. Through the Elysian Valley Arts Collective the neighborhood hosted its fifth annual "Frog Town Art Walk" last August and recently commissioned a documentary titled "Mapping Frogtown: Stories from Elysian Valley" that is available for sale as a CD and as a download for viewing.

The neighborhood demographics are very reflective of the median household in Los Angeles in most aspects, including age, education, income, and household size. The languages spoken by the community are English and Spanish, with some Vietnamese, Cantonese, and Mandarin. While most residents travel outside of the boundaries of the neighborhood for their employment and shopping, residents tend to stay in the neighborhood for their socializing, religious activities, and recreation. In addition to the parks the Elysian Valley Recreational Center provides a variety of programs and activities for residents of all ages. The rec center creates a great support system and "hub" for the community.

These factors are much more compelling than the evidence of two postal zip codes in the area. The postal zip codes were created long before the markedly distinctive physical boundaries of the neighborhood.

For all these reasons stated above, a united Elysian Valley neighborhood should remain a contiguous voting block as out political district.

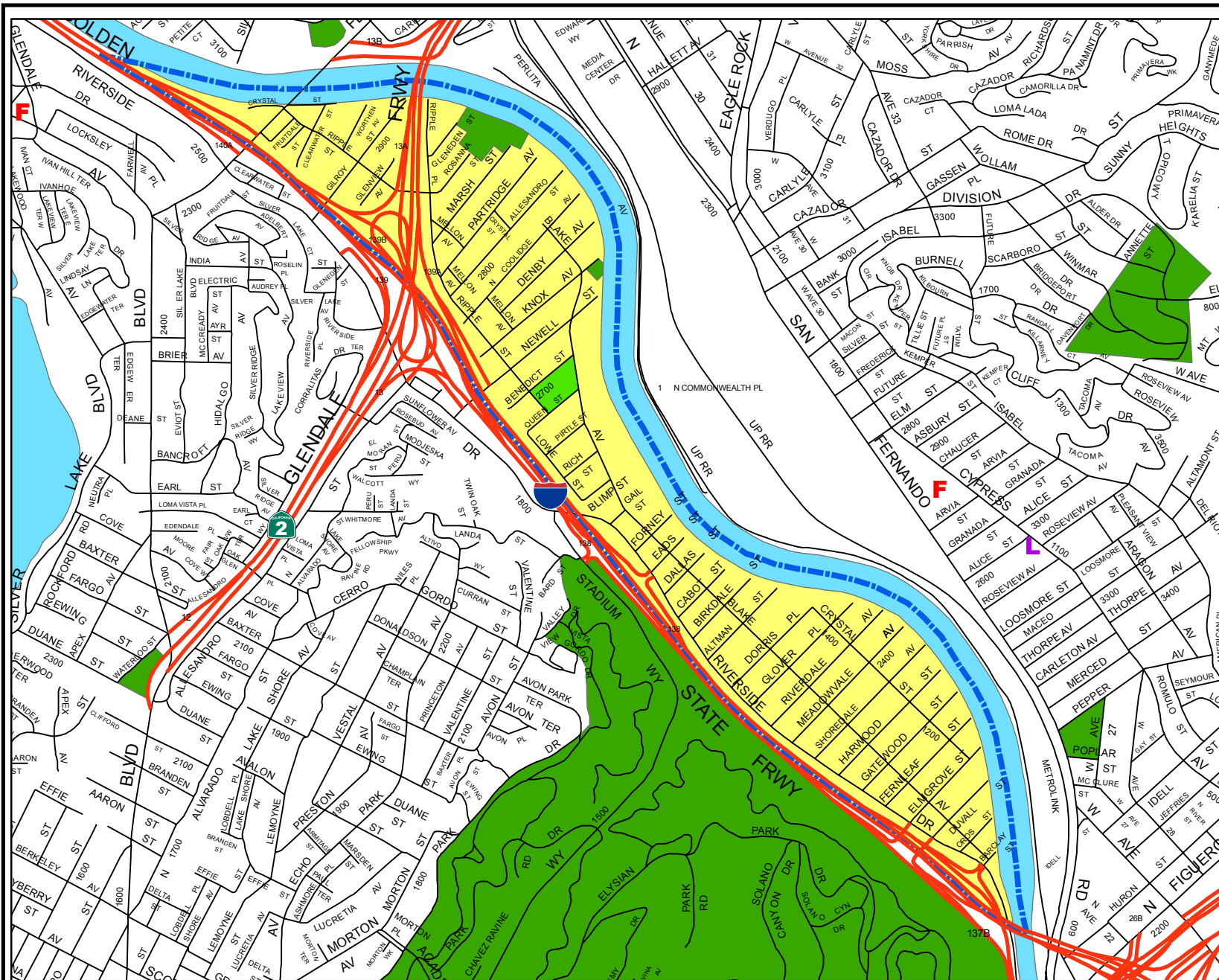
Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Natalie J. McGill



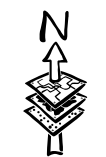
attachment: map



**EAST AREA**  
 COUNCIL DISTRICT: 13  
**ELYSIAN VALLEY**  
**RIVERSIDE NC**

**CERTIFIED: 07/09/2002**  
 Department of  
 Neighborhood Empowerment  
 (213) 485-1360 or dial 311  
[www.lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com)

- P** Police Station
- F** Fire Station
- L** Library
- Park
- Recreation Area
- Water
- Freeway
- Street



NOT TO SCALE



**ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**  
 MAYOR

**ELYSIAN VALLEY RIVERSIDE**  
 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
 DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT  
 CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**GARY LEE MOORE, P.E.**  
 CITY ENGINEER

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