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#33



To: Citizen's Redistricting Committee

Date: April 30, 2011

From:

Tamela Messina



Speaker
#33

Dear Committee Members,

See map included on reverse side of this page for reference.

I am a resident of the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) for the last 11 years. Prior to that, I resided in the rural area of Sun Valley in the San Fernando Valley (SFV).

The Santa Clarita Valley is a very tightly knit community. I have a few recommendations for consideration as to redistricting our area and the areas immediately surrounding us. I urge you to:

- Keep the SCV as a whole and contiguous unit in the redistricting process
- Place the Castaic Lake Water Agency's service area within the SCV's contiguous area. Water planning and issues are paramount to the success of our area, not only for the residents but also the agricultural interests which lie within our area. This service area includes all of SCV as well as portions of northeastern Ventura County.
- Consider including northwest SFV, including Chatsworth & Granada Hills, with the SCV area. These communities are similar in many ways and would be well served by a single assembly person.
- Due to the projected growth (westward), I recommend that ^{Piru} Fillmore and even Santa Paula be considered for inclusion in the SCV area. Not only are there shared water interests, but SCV's rapid growth planned for that area will soon enough make Fillmore a contiguous part of the SCV regardless of arbitrarily drawn county lines.

118 Fwy
corridor

Thank you for your committed service to this important task. I know the hours are long and largely thankless. However, please know, they are critical to representing the voice of the citizens in California, and I am appreciative of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Tamela Messina

Kern Cty line



Palmdale/
Lancaster

Green Valley

Acton/Agua Dulce

Lines used by
Masters in 1991

My name is Silva Kechichian, and I live in Burbank. Thank you all for the work your are doing to make our Congressional and state legislative districts reflect the communities of California. I came to the U.S. in 1988 and lived in Glendale, and about ten years later moved to Burbank. I am Armenian-American and currently I am working for Los Angeles County as a social worker for seven years, specifically working with Armenian and Arabic communities in their own language. In the early 90s, I was also the executive secretary for the Armenian Athletic Union & Scouts, Known as Homenetmen. Also, I am an active member for Armenian National Committee and Armenian Cultural Foundation of Burbank. Today, I'm speaking as a resident of Burbank, and a former resident of Glendale.

Arabic

non profit organization

*category
zation of
ethnicity.
ie other
caucasian
white*

Armenian-Americans are a minority in our region, but a large one. There are more than 50,000 Armenian-Americans in Glendale, making up more than 25% of the population. Burbank and Pasadena also have large Armenian populations. The Armenian-American communities in Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank have close ties and I have many Armenian-American friends who live in Glendale and Pasadena.

not accurate due to inconsistent

When I worked for the Armenian Athletic Union & Scouts Regional Committee, we organized the Navasartian Games, an event that's an Olympics for the Armenian-American community across the country. Most of the athletes & scouts came from Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena.

I also was a volunteer for US Census 2010 - City of Burbank Complete Count Committee. We worked hard to get as many residents as possible counted in the Census, and we worked closely with the Committees in Glendale and Pasadena, particularly to make non-native speakers of English aware of the Census and its importance.

I believe that the communities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena should be kept together in a single district to maintain the Armenian community of interest in our region, so that our voice is heard. If these cities are not kept together it will dilute our voting strength and harm our ability to advocate on issues of concern to our community.

**CA Citizens Redistricting Commission – Public Input Hearing
April 30, 2011**

Intro:

- NVCS represents the North East San Fernando Valley.
We serve almost 4,000 individuals annually through our programs.

What bonds your community – what do you see as the common links in your community?

- We believe that the No.East. SF Valley is a community of interest based on its social and economic status and culture.
- Majority Latino, low income, immigrant and underrepresented population.

Where is your community located – what are the boundaries of your community?

- Located in the North Hills East San Fernando Valley.
- The boundaries are the 405 fwy leading North to the 5fwy into Sylmar. On the South end from the 405 just past Roscoe to the railroad tracks. The tracks go east to Hazeltine then South on Hazeltine to Vanowen then East on Vanowen. This circles around to tip of our district which is Hollywood way then back down Glenoaks to Sun Valley, Lake View Terrace, and Sylmar.

Why should the community be kept together – or separate from another area?

- We feel the congressional district lines should encompass our entire community. At this time our community is divided into the 27th and 28th congressional districts. We also feel it would best if we were represented by one individual.
- Our 39th Assembly district we feel is representative of the community. However, we understand it lacks constituents which can be easily remedied by expanding south and encompassing more of Van Nuys and No. Hollywood.

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#51

We, the undersigned recognize that the Conejo Valley is a single area. The Conejo Valley consists of the Ventura county communities of Thousand Oaks and Oak Park and the Los Angeles County cities of Westlake Village and Agoura Hills. We are a single community of interest and are closely linked with the West San Fernando cities of Calabasas and Hidden Hills and the rest of the West Valley. While men have drawn the county line between Los Angeles and Ventura counties, God created the Conejo Valley as a geographic entity. Many of us live near the lake of Westlake, and have even paddle-boarded from one county to the other. In our daily lives, when we work, shop, visit friends, go on a walk or go on a bike ride, we routinely cross the county line. **We urge the commission to keep the Conejo Valley in the same district for congressional and representative purposes.**

Name

Address

JOSHUA SHINDEL

BARRY CORWIN

Alfon Rosenthal

Monica Shinder

Jane Corwin

Marin Moss

Phyllis Green

Shari Rosenthal

Kathleen Craig

Margie Hausman

Eileen Darnell

Tommy Spitzer

Shelley Hansen

Linda Brenner

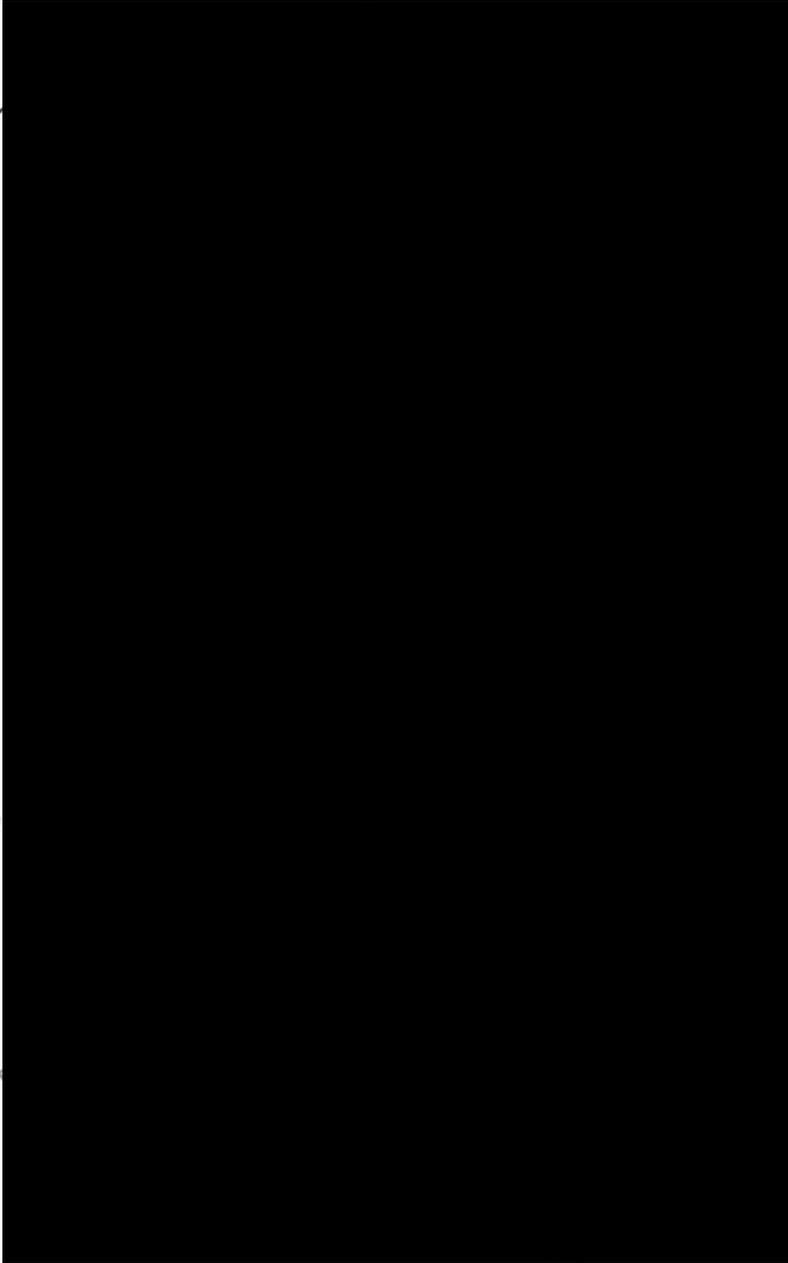
Diane Addison

Bob Schaefer

John D. ...

John D. ...

John D. ...



Free Ads Available for Chamber Members on Buy Conejo Website

The Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce announces a new added value for Chamber members.

The Chamber is developing a dynamic Buy Conejo website, sponsored by the Oaks Shopping Center, Southern California Gas and the cities of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills.

Howard Brenner

Sr. Business Performance Advisor
Chairman's Club

550 North Brand Blvd | Suite 650 | Glendale, CA 91203



-04.30.11.S #52

April 30, 2011

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

To the Commission:

Operation Safe Canyons (OSC) is a “community of interest” that works to promote public safety. While its primary focus is traffic safety on the 540 miles of Los Angeles County roads in the western Santa Monica Mountains south of the Ventura/Los Angeles County line, OSC also deals with safety issues connected to Pacific Coast Highway from the County line south and on cross-mountain canyon roads (Topanga Canyon Blvd., Malibu Canyon, Kanan) that lead from the I-101 Ventura Freeway to the Pacific Coast Highway and the coast.

Another focus of the group is promotion of fire safety by keeping roads clear for firefighting equipment and restricting areas in special danger on “red flag” days. We are concerned with the safety of residents, commuters, day-trippers and tourists to the Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area and all those who use the canyon roads.

Our members include the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Los Angeles County Supervisorial Third District, representatives from the State Assembly and State Senate, homeowner and equestrian groups and public safety activists from Malibu, the Las Virgenes/Conejo Valley and the County unincorporated areas of the Santa Monica Mountains through Topanga Canyon.

Over many years we have acted as a team to promote the public's well being through a seamless coordination of law enforcement, engineering and public education. It is in our community's best interest to return voting districts to lines similar to those used in 1991 so we can continue our work together. We urge you to redraw the districts to include the Santa Monica Mountains and beaches from the County line through Topanga and on through to Pacific Palisades and the City of Santa Monica.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Strote,
Member, Operation Safe Canyons

██████████
Calabasas, CA 91302



Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Inc.

Post Office Box 353, Agoura Hills, California 91301

"The voice and conscience of the Santa Monica Mountains since 1968"

Executive Committee

President

Kim Lamorie

Vice President

Mary Ellen Strote

Secretary

Kathy Berkowitz

Treasurer

Joan Yacovone

Member Associations

Calabasas Highlands HOA

Calabasas Park Estates

Cold Creek Community

Council

Cornell Preservation

Organization (CPO)

Fountainwood

Greater Mulwood HOA

Las Virgenes Village HOA

Liberty Canyon HOA

Malibu Canyon HOA

Malibu Lake Mountain Club

Malibu Lakeside

Mont Calabasas HOA

Monte Nido Valley

Community Assoc.

Morrison Ranch Estates

Old Agoura HOA

Old Topanga HOA

Saddle Peak

Community Assoc. of

Saratoga Hills (CASH)

Seminole Springs

Topanga Association Scenic

Community (TASC)

Triunfo Lobo Community

Assoc.

Wagon Road Ranchos

Steeplechase HOA

Westhills HOA

April 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission

1130 K Street, Suite 101

Sacramento, CA, 95814

Re: Assembly and Senate District Boundaries Los Angeles County

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

The Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation writes this letter on behalf of its more than 25 homeowner associations and more than 6,000 homeowners within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). The Federation is the largest and oldest homeowner coalition in the SMMNRA with members throughout Calabasas, Agoura Hills, unincorporated Los Angeles County, and Westhills. We have a strong, active, and very successful 44 year history - dedicated to bringing residents, government agencies and stakeholders together to improve the quality of life in the Santa Monica Mountains and to preserving our shared common interests in our canyons and coast.

Our members respectfully request that the Commission consider our recommendations regarding the redistricting for the Las Virgenes Region and Los Angeles County for the reasons stated below.

I. Historical Representation

For over 20 years elected officials that have been committed to the quality of life in the Santa Monica Mountains have represented our region. This commitment has been responsible for a dream turning into reality in the form of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area for all of the residents of California. The local, state and federal elected officials have been sensitive to the unique issues related to San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

II. Senate and Assembly districts are contiguous and compact.

The former 2001 Senate district is completely contained within Los Angeles County with the two Assembly districts nested into the single Senate district. We support a return to the shared goals of this district. The western border is the Los Angeles County line with Ventura County. The southern border is the Pacific Ocean. The northern border is the 101-freeway corridor and the eastern border is from Universal City south to include the city of West Hollywood and the Wilshire corridor to the City of Santa Monica. We support these districts that are almost identical to the districts drawn by three retired appellate judges appointed by the Supreme Court in 1991 when the legislature and the governor were not able to agree on a redistricting plan. The senate and assembly districts are united by three adjacent, interlocking

communities of interest: the greater Westside, the San Fernando Valley and the Las Virgenes region. These three areas are bound together by the Santa Monica Mountains which run from the eastern edge of the district to the Pacific Ocean in Malibu and the Ventura County line. Together, they form a cohesive, coherent unit, which should be preserved.

III. Communities of Interest

A. Las Virgenes Area

This region is a community of interest spanning the cities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village and Hidden Hills as well as nearby unincorporated areas. These cities are all County "contract cities" and are served as a unit by the same Sheriff's Station, Fire Stations and the county services in Calabasas. Together with Malibu they have formed a Council of Government (COG). COG likewise is supporting a return to the 1991 districting plan.

B. Fire Protection

The Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance is a collaboration of the related public agencies, departments and communities to prevent fires and to fight fires in the Santa Monica Mountains.

C. Transportation

Our area depends on the 101 Corridor, Malibu Canyon, Kanan Road, Topanga Canyon and PCH from Santa Monica to Malibu to the Ventura County line.

D. National, State and Local Parks

Local city, county, state and federal officials have been committed to acquiring, managing and improving the open space and recreational areas in the Santa Monica Mountains. In 1978 Congress established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area as part of the National Park System. Together, government agencies, landowners and the people who use this land are working to provide places for people to live, work and play while protecting the mountains and seashore for future generations.

E. Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD)

The Las Virgenes Unified School District serves the Las Virgenes region. The LVUSD is one of the most highly respected school districts in the state. Schools in the district have won both state and national honors. Schools have been named California Distinguished School Awards as well as National Blue Ribbon Awards. The LVUSD has a foundation, which receives enormous public support for fundraising to maintain programs in the school district.

F. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is the regional water and sewer district for our region. The district is recognized for the recycled water and composting programs that are implemented by the district.

IV. Requested Commission Findings

The Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation recommends that the integrity of the Los Angeles County line with Ventura County be kept intact. We support the districts drawn by the nonpartisan appellate judges in 1991. The southern border is the Pacific Ocean. The northern border is the 101-freeway corridor and the eastern border is from Universal City south to include the city of West Hollywood and the Wilshire corridor to the City of Santa Monica. Also the assembly districts should be nested in the senate district.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Lamorie
President
Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Inc.



The Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce (SCVCC) – the largest member chamber in California – would respectfully ask the Citizens Redistricting Commission to adopt the SCVCC’s recommendations about the drawing of Assembly, Senate and Congressional districts for the Santa Clarita Valley.

The Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce has been the "Voice of Business" for 84 years. The organization was first formed as the Newhall Chamber of Commerce and the minutes from the first meeting were recorded February 21, 1923. Currently we are one of the largest Chambers in California, serving approximately 1,100 businesses with approximately 10,000 employees.

The Santa Clarita Valley has long been a distinct community that, although part of Los Angeles County, has been distinct and geographically separated from the County. In addition, over many years the Santa Clarita Valley has developed business, development, transportation and other infrastructure relationships with our surrounding communities including Antelope Valley to the east, Ventura County to the West, and the northwest San Fernando Valley which includes Cal State University Northridge.

Our local community’s primary goal is to ensure that the entire Santa Clarita Valley is totally contained within an Assembly, State Senate and Congressional District. For your information, our community’s boundaries are the Ventura County line to the West, the Kern County line to the north, Agua Ducle to the east and the City of Los Angeles line to the South.

Since the Santa Clarita Valley only contains the population of approximately 50% of an Assembly District, we acknowledge that we will have to be combined with adjacent communities. We believe there are three such options.

First, is to connect our Assembly seat up through Highway 14 to include the City of Palmdale and the southern parts of the Antelope Valley. That is shown as District 1 on the attached map. As outlined below, we believe there are a number of reasons why this redistricting recommendation best represents the criteria that the Commission is using to decide on and draw districts. This criteria includes –

1. Equal Population – The proposed district recommended by the SCVCC comprise 465,798 (1) residents.
2. Voting Rights Act – the SCVCC recommended districts represents the interests of minority populations. The minority composition of the proposed districts is as follows –



District 1

- Caucasian – 62%
- Hispanic – 37%
- Asian – 8%
- Black – 8%

(State percentages – White – 58%, Black – 6%, Asian – 13%, Hispanic – 38%)

3. Contiguous – The proposed map appropriately maintains a contiguous district separated only by natural, geographic boundaries.
4. Respect for city and county boundaries, neighborhoods and communities of interest – The SCVCC worked hard to encompass all the districts within Los Angeles County. In addition, we have also undertaken the following in drafting the proposed districts.
 - a. Inclusion of all parts of all cities included in the districts – there are not cities that are divided in the SCVCC proposal.
 - b. The SCV and the Antelope Valley have historically been linked as communities of interest this includes watershed, infrastructure and industry linkages that have developed over decades of interdependence and mutual cooperation.
5. Compact Districts and regular shape – The proposed districts recommended by the SCVCC clearly address this issue and are of regular shape and compact.
6. Political Party, Candidate Discrimination/Favoritism – The SCVCC has taken great care to propose districts that clearly represent the communities of interest in the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys. We have drawn these districts without the interests of political party or voter affiliation.

The SCVCC believes the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys must be treated as its own community – connected through business, infrastructure and the common bonds of geography and historical interaction. We believe the proposed maps clearly demonstrate the best ideals of a representative democracy.

A second option is to connect Santa Clarita to Ventura County along the eastern portion of the Santa Clara River watershed and into the southeastern Ventura Cities of Simi Valley and Moorpark. Our community of interest with these communities, in addition to water includes transportation corridors, employment centers, and large sections of conservation lands which have been jointly developed and supported.

Finally, a third option would be to continue our relationship with the North West San Fernando Valley, including CSUN. Many of our residents attend CSUN and work in this area. In addition,



many residents of this portion of the San Fernando Valley attend our award winning Community College, College of the Canyons, since there is no like institution in their community.

We appreciate the hard work you are undertaking and look forward to seeing the final culmination of your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Cop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dana Cop
President

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#54

