

From: **Glen Dake** [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Apr 28
Subject: Griffith Park Community of Interest
To: rob.wilcox@crc.ca.gov, votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

April 20, 2011

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

Re: Griffith Park Community of Interest

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Please accept this public testimony for your work creating new districts in the communities that abut Griffith Park.

I urge you to keep Griffith Park and the communities that touch it together in the legislative districts you draw. Currently, this one park, and the very similar neighborhoods that abut it, are represented by three state Assemblymembers, two state Senators, and four U.S. Congressmembers. I participated in a grassroots effort regarding this part of the City recently and residents in one neighborhood petitioned this rather large group of legislators, causing confusion, disaffection of residents from their government, and lack of accountability.

A state legislative district composed of Griffith Park will provide accountability to taxpayers and park users for the future improvements to the park, which is home to extensive regional infrastructure, and which continually seeks state appropriations. It is important that Griffith Park and surrounding neighborhoods are drawn into one Assembly district (not just one Senate District) because the residents have greater opportunities to meet and advocate to their Assemblymember than they have to their Senator because of smaller districts.

Griffith Park is the largest municipal park with “urban wilderness” in the United States, and it is a City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument. The neighborhoods surrounding Griffith Park include: the “Rancho” equestrian subdivision in the City of Burbank, Universal City (including Universal Studios), Hollywood Knoll, Cahuenga Terrace, Hollywoodland, Beachwood Canyon, The Oaks, Los Feliz, Silver Lake, and Atwater Village.

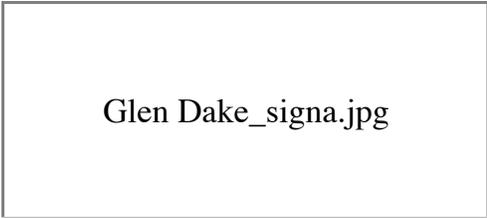
The communities that touch Griffith Park share many things in common, making them, together, a community of interest. All feature an abundance of designated Cultural Heritage Monuments, similar employment patterns, park access, traffic patterns, equestrian trails, equestrian-zoned properties, foothill elevation, urban watershed pathways, increased municipal fauna presence, similar crime patterns, and a similar history and civic outlook.

For example, the neighborhoods surrounding Griffith Park all share similar traffic patterns, ie, they face more traffic on weekends than weekdays, patterns that are diametrically opposed to other neighborhoods in close proximity. Many of the neighborhoods bordering the park feature horse properties, which are otherwise rare in the modern urban context. Preserving the semi-rural nature of the equestrian properties and the other park-adjacent properties is a major goal of area homeowners. Griffith Park is home to mule deer, coyotes, hawks, and several other wildlife species not typically seen in Los Angeles County, and this wildlife forage in the surrounding urban neighborhoods presenting the same challenges, particularly for pet ownership and refuse disposal to residents of the various neighborhoods in this topic of State regulatory authority.

The neighborhoods surrounding Griffith Park, because of their semi-rural or wilderness-adjacent character, face similar crime profiles. All have occasional issues with drunk driving through the neighborhoods after special events, individuals passing through the residential neighborhoods to commit crime in the Park, and large numbers of drivers on neighborhood streets used to access the Park. Those neighborhoods thus share many of the same concerns when it comes to crime and criminal-justice issues.

For these reasons and others, the communities surrounding Griffith Park should be kept in the same legislative districts. Our ability to access our governmental leaders on the unique concerns detailed above is improved when districts are arranged to keep communities which share so many characteristics together, to allow the residents of the local neighborhoods to petition their governments effectively. We thank you for your consideration of these points and concerns as you embark on drawing the lines that will affect our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Glen Dake_signa.jpg

Glen C. Dake

Director, Los Angeles Community Garden Council (a CA non-profit corporation)*

Director, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (a CA non-profit corporation)*

Member, Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission (2008-2010)*

*title provided for identification only

mhtmlmain:

4/29/11 9:47 AM



mhtmlmain:

Page 3 of 3