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Heal the Bay

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Citizen Redistricting Commission  
1130 K St, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

APR 28 2011

Per CS

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I have been a resident of Santa Monica for over 15 years and I'm a graduate of Santa Monica High School and UCLA. I am the long time President of Heal the Bay and a parent of three children in the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District.

I am writing to urge the Commission to include the communities of Malibu, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Topanga, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, and Hidden Hills in the same district because we share common interests and should be in the same legislative and congressional districts. All of the communities are part of the north Santa Monica Bay watershed that includes the Santa Monica Mountains and half of the Bay and the Bay's incredible coastline.

The Santa Monica Mountains are a major and significant natural landmark that residents have in common on both sides of the mountains. SF Valley, Las Virgenes, Malibu and Westside residents all share this protected area of regional open space that attract millions of visitors from all over the region every year. Protecting local open space, watersheds, wildlife corridors, and recreational opportunities are important to all communities within the watershed. Having elected representatives that share this priority is vital to the best interests of our district.

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area covers nearly half of the geographic area of this district. In fact, over 50% of the SMMNRA is in public open space and is owned by the National Parks, State Parks or the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. From Fryman Canyon(NPS) near Beverly Hills/Studio City to Topanga State Park(Woodland Hills, Pacific Palisades and Topanga) and Malibu Creek State Park(Calabasas, Agoura Hills and Malibu), and west to the County Line, etc are just part of 153,000 acres in the SMMNRA Recreation Area. Recently, UCLA, also within the District, expanded their research presence in the Santa Monica Mountains with the creation of the LaKretz Center for California Conservation Science.

The Pacific Ocean is a boundary area for our community from the southern border of Santa Monica to the Ventura County Line. Santa Monica Bay is a critical resource for our community and attracts over 50 million visitors a year. Protecting Bay water quality and coastal resources is important for all cities in the watershed. The Bay is an economic engine for the region and provides millions of residents with a better quality of life. Maintaining the North Bay watershed in one district has been essential to the environmental protection success within the Bay and the Santa Monica Mountains. Please keep the district together in one piece to ensure effective environmental stewardship for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mark Gold, D. Env.  
President