

Karen T. Rogers



April 29, 2011

To: California Citizens ("We Draw the Lines") Redistricting Commission

In drawing district maps for our congressional, senate and assembly seats, I urge you to link with each other "like communities" in the West San Fernando Valley and the area to its west and not join communities to the east such as Pacoima, Sun Valley and Tujunga, which while they may not be too far away are very distant in type of community, lifestyle and use. Drawing the lines to respect "like communities" is extremely important in providing fair and responsible representation to Sacramento and Congress for our area. This is of utmost importance to our community, and we will have to live with the result for the next 10 years. One of the primary reasons for putting this responsibility into the hands of our citizens is because they are presumably more familiar with local communities and understand the need (and are better able) to group similar groups and interests. Thus, I ask for your careful consideration of the following.

First, it is very important to keep the West San Fernando Valley communities of Chatsworth, Porter Ranch, West Hills and Canoga Park together due to our many overlapping interests and shared lifestyle. The West SFV mostly consists of residential communities, horse properties, rural living, local business connections, and a slow-growth mentality. Residents of Chatsworth, Porter Ranch, West Hills and Canoga Park frequently patronize the schools, churches and businesses in each other's areas. There is much overlap, with similarities in lifestyles, activities and interests. Thus, these areas should certainly be viewed as one community and kept together in the same district.

Second, the quiet residential lifestyle, rural living and slow-growth mentality of the West San Fernando Valley closely links us to eastern Ventura County. The residents in the West SFV identify with areas to the West, including the eastern Ventura County communities of Simi Valley, Moorpark, and Thousand Oaks, far more than communities to the East, such as Pacoima, Sun Valley and Tujunga. Simi Valley, for example, is just a 10-15 minute drive from West San Fernando Valley, so residents travel frequently between the two for activities, movies, shopping, and parks. That is not the case with Pacoima, Sun Valley or Tujunga. If the district lines are drawn to the South and East of us to include communities such as Pacoima, Sun Valley and Tujunga, our community will be linked with more industrial areas with which we have very little in common or interaction. Thus, we strongly believe the district lines should be drawn to exclude those areas, and include Simi Valley and areas to the West.

My husband and I were both born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. We have owned homes in the West SFV for the past 23 years: living in Chatsworth for the past 11 years and West Hills for 12 years before that. We are very established in this community. My husband owns his own business and has always worked in the West SFV; our children have attended numerous schools here. We have a great interest in this community and hope you will draw the lines that respect and join that common community rather than divide it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen T. Rogers".

Karen T. Rogers