

From: NICHAN KULUKIAN [REDACTED]  
Subject: April 30,11 CRC Hearing presentation

Message Body:  
Speaker # 57 - Amended Presentation

Nichan Kulukian, CLU  
[REDACTED]

Good afternoon, my name is Nichan Kulukian and I have been a resident of the West San Fernando Valley's Granada Hills for 23 years. The West San Fernando Valley I am referring to starts just north of my community of Granada Hills at the border of the Angeles National Forest and the Los Angeles city limits. It then extends south to Encino along the western side of the 405 Freeway, then west through the Valley to Agoura Hills. It then extends south to Mulholland Drive, and goes east to 405 Freeway and west to the Ventura County line. Most of these areas fall within the city limits of Los Angeles; but please understand that it also includes the incorporated cities of Calabasas and Hidden Hills.

I have long been active in my community as well as with many neighborhoods and ethnic Communities west of the 405 Freeway, including 3 years as a Neighborhood Councilman and chair of Land Use Committee, trying to create harmony, peace and cooperation. I'm also very active with the Armenian population in the Valley. As with most Valley organizations, the Armenian National Committee of which I am a member for 14 years has an East Valley branch and a West Valley branch. We would like to keep our community west of the 405 Freeway together.

The Department of Public Social Services and the Red Cross both have an East Valley office and a West Valley office, which in turn represent the "East Valley Area" and the "West Valley Area".

With the L.A. Police Department, all departments in the Valley Bureau are completely within either the East or West Valley, with the 405 Freeway dividing the regions. One of the departments is specifically named the "West Valley Community Police Station".

The Los Angeles Public Library's many Valley branches are divided between two regions – "East Valley Area" and "West Valley Area". All of the West Valley Area branches are west of the 405 Freeway and vice versa.

In addition, communication within the Valley is also often divided into two distinct regions, the East and West of 405 Freeway. Not only is this fact important as a means for community identification, but it also results in different advertising, including political advertising, being seen by each region.

Also, Time Warner Cable has a "West San Fernando Valley" region and an "East San Fernando Valley" region. The dividing line is primarily the 405 Freeway. The Warner Center News serves the West Valley and runs almost entirely West Valley-oriented local news stories. The West Valley News declares on its masthead that it is "serving the communities of Calabasas, Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Reseda, Tarzana, West Hills, Winnetka, and Woodland Hills". Valley Voice, Valley Vantage, the Las Virgenes Enterprise, and the Topanga Messenger all serve the West San Fernando Valley.

My community and I urge you to please keep the West San Fernando Valley, as mentioned in my first paragraph, together. Do not split us up, as through great labor, constant communication and cooperation, we have become one large community during the past decade. Please let our communities remain together, intact.

Thank you.

Nichan Kulukian, CLU  
Read & submitted on April 30, 2011, to:  
Citizens Redistricting Commission  
Public Input Hearing  
City of San Fernando City Hall – Council Chambers

Answer to a supplemental question about differences between Armenians east or west of the 405 Freeway

Armenians in the US and of course Los Angeles and the S.F.Valley are divided into two main groups. One group includes Armenians who have immigrated from the previous

Soviet Armenia, who have their own dialect, culture and customs. Many of them live on the east of the 405 Freeway all the way to North Hollywood, Hollywood, Burbank or Glendale. The other group represents survivors and their descendants of the Armenian Genocide who are referred to as Diaspora Armenians, and who have a different dialect of their own and many of whom live in the west of the 405 Freeway. Each group has its own culture, churches or schools as a separate community. Some people in each group have difficulty understanding the other group because of different dialects.

Thank you.