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Rabbinical Council of California

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ה' אייר תשע"א

May 9, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission

1130 K Street, Suite 101

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

We request that this letter be entered into the record for the Los Angeles County region regarding redistricting considerations.

The Los Angeles Orthodox community constitutes roughly one-quarter to one-fifth of Los Angeles' 621,000 Jewish population. The Orthodox community follows strict religious observance as set forth in the Hebrew Bible. We do not operate cars or machinery on Saturdays and worship, maintain a rigorous religious education system, and follow strict rules regarding preparation of food.

Because of our deep religious observance and limitations on our transportation on the Sabbath, these populations tend to focus on tightly-knit neighborhoods in the Beverly-Fairfax area, Hancock Park and Pico Robertson/Beverlywood, with smaller populations in southern Beverly Hills and Valley Village in the San Fernando Valley. The communities in the Los Angeles Basin are particularly interdependent and privately maintain a large network of charitable and educational institutions. Many of our businesses are locally owned and cater to the needs of the religiously observant in the neighborhood.

We have strong representation on the three neighborhood councils covering the region (South Robertson, MidCity-West and Greater Wilshire), all of whose borders also closely mirror those of our community. In the past, our Los Angeles Basin communities have been divided between districts, such as between the 42nd and 47th Assembly District, the 23rd and 26th Senate District and the 30th and 33rd Congressional District. Only our County Supervisorial district has kept our community representation whole.

Because of the distinct character of our community and the importance of having representation that understands our unique cultural and religious observances, we would like to set forth in the strongest terms our desire to keep our representation under a single Assembly, State Senate and Congressional district, uniting the Beverly-Fairfax, Hancock Park and Pico-Robertson/Beverlywood areas into single districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Rabbi Avrohom Union

Rabbinic Administrator

Rabbinical Council of California