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Date: Tue, May 3, 2011 at 3:03 PM
Subject: Redistricting Comments for the Commission
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

May 3, 2011

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Calabasas Highlands Homeowners Association located in Calabasas. We respectfully request that the Commission **return voting districts to lines similar to those drawn in 1991, or at the very least, keep Calabasas in the same district as the rest of the Santa Monica Mountains community including Agoura, Westlake, Malibu and Santa Monica.** These comments agree with those submitted by the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, of which we are a member. Here is an outline of our reasons:

1. Senate and Assembly Districts are contiguous and compact, completely contained within Los Angeles County, with the two Assembly districts nested into the single Senate district. The senate and assembly districts are united by three adjacent, interlocking communities of interest: the greater Westside, the San Fernando Valley and the Las Virgenes region. These three areas are bound together by the Santa Monica Mountains which run from the eastern edge of the district to the Pacific Ocean in Malibu and the Ventura County line. Together, they form a cohesive unit, which should be preserved.
1. The communities share interest, services and geography. The Las Virgenes Valley/ Upper Malibu Creek Watershed area is a community of interest surrounded by the Santa Monica Mountains, starting in West Hills, then spanning down into the cities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Hidden Hills, and contiguous unincorporated communities in the County of Los Angeles.

These cities are all County “contract cities” and are served as a unit by the same Lost Hills Sheriff’s Station in Calabasas, Fire Stations in Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, and Calabasas, and Animal Care & Control located in Agoura Hills. Together, with Malibu, they have formed a Council of Government (COG).

For purposes of integrated watershed resource management planning, the Santa Monica Bay Watersheds are grouped into three major units: the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB), the South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB), and Marina/Del Rey Watersheds. The NSMB includes the Malibu Creek Watershed, Topanga Creek Watershed, and other surrounding rural Santa Monica Mountains/Bay Watersheds. The NSMB coastal watersheds include all or parts of the Cities of Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, and unincorporated Los Angeles County areas like Topanga.

Over 20 years ago, under the umbrella of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM), the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council was formed to protect and preserve the health of the Malibu Creek Watershed and its adjoining watersheds. The Advisory Council is made up of a long list of stakeholders and representatives, including the Cities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village and Malibu, who helped create the 1995 Natural Resources Plan, which serves as a planning guide for overall watershed health.

1. Fire Protection is a shared interest. The Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance is a collaboration of the related public agencies, departments and communities to prevent fires and to fight fires in the Santa Monica Mountains.
1. Transportation interests are in common. Our area depends on the 101 Corridor, Malibu Canyon, Kanan Road, Topanga Canyon and PCH from Santa Monica to Malibu to the Ventura County line. Operation Safe Canyons (OSC) is a community of interest that works to promote public safety. OSC also deals with safety issues connected to Pacific Coast Highway from the County line south and on cross-mountain canyon roads (Topanga Canyon Blvd., Malibu Canyon, Kanan) that lead from the I-101 Ventura Freeway to the Pacific Coast Highway and the coast.
1. The Las Virgenes Unified School District serves the Las Virgenes region combining Calabasas with Agoura and surrounding communities. The LVUSD is one of the most highly respected school districts in the state. Schools in the district have won both state and national honors. Schools have been named California Distinguished School Awards as well as National Blue Ribbon Awards. The LVUSD has a foundation, which receives enormous public support for fundraising to maintain programs in the school district.
1. The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is the regional water and sewer district for our region. The district is recognized for the recycled water and composting

programs that are implemented by the district.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Nancy Rothenberg, President
Calabasas Highlands HOA

