

To: California Redistricting Commission

From: Timothy P. Wendler, member of State Advisory Committee, City Commissioner, Land Trust Board President

Subject: Why the Interstate 210 Corridor is a Community of Interest

The cities and towns along Interstate 210 (also known as the Foothill Freeway) in the Eastern part of the San Gabriel Valley from Claremont to La Crescenta have much in common: a middle class suburban lifestyle, the San Gabriel Mountains as a northern border, closeness to the Angeles National Forest, and numerous environmental/government districts. For the most part, the cities of the Eastern San Gabriel Valley have their own water, transportation, conservation and school systems. The I-210 Corridor is simply distinct from the City of Los Angeles and much of Los Angeles County for the following reasons:

Environmental considerations: Both Cal-Trans and the Southern California Association of Governments definition of the I-210 Corridor as including the communities from La Crescenta to the eastern edge of Los Angeles County. As a result, these areas are connected from a transportation perspective, and as the Gold Line light rail is extended to the east, will be increasingly connected from a mass-transit perspective. The Foothill Transit district connects much of the area with bus service. For short flights, most residents here use the Burbank Airport rather than LAX.

The California Air Resources Board puts the Eastern San Gabriel Valley in its own “air basin” for monitoring air quality. The San Gabriel foothills create an air pollution challenge common to these communities as air pollution has a tendency to bump up and settle against this geographic boundary. This area also has its own water agency, the Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District that handles the area’s drinking water and wastewater – and is separate from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

From an open space and recreation perspective, this area shares the San Gabriel foothills and Angeles Forest. Conservancies, throughout the area, such as the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy, the Monrovia Conservancy, the Sierra Madre Conservancy, and the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy, work to preserve opens spaces in the areas at the boundary between the Forest and more urban areas, to preserve hiking, biking, equestrian opportunities and natural habitat.

Geography: The I-210 Corridor is along the southern ridge of the San Gabriel Mountains. Virtually every city here is part of the San Gabriel River watershed. All of the I-210 Corridor is within a short drive of the Angeles National Forest, which crosses the San Gabriel Mountains.

Government: Only a tiny fraction of the population here is unincorporated and thus receives services from Los Angeles County. Virtually every city along I-210 has its own city council, police department, transportation, waste management, and school systems. In addition, the Foothill Transit Authority, as distinct from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority, connects many neighborhoods here. This is all in keeping with the suburban lifestyle of the Eastern part of the San Gabriel Valley.

Population: The City of Los Angeles has a population density of 8,205 persons per square mile. By contrast, the population density for three of the banner suburbs along the I-210 Corridor is much less than the City of Los Angeles: Claremont (2,587 persons per square mile), Glendora (2,581 persons per square mile) and Monrovia (2,685 persons per square mile).

Demographic factors: As we can see from the latest available Census data, the communities along the I-210 corridor are on average better-educated, more middle class, a bit older and residents here are much more likely to own their home than Los Angeles County and California as a whole. The data below also show a huge difference between the I-210 Corridor and the city of Los Angeles: three times as many Los Angeles City families are below the poverty line, incomes in the 210 Corridor are nearly twice as high, nearly twice as many are foreign-born in LA City, and less than half of LA residents are home-owners compared to nearly 70% in the I-210 communities. The I-210 Corridor is one of the most ethnically diverse places in America – with significant enclaves of Armenians, Chinese, Koreans and Latinos, but with a middle class twist. On average, 95% of families in the eastern San Gabriel Valley live above the poverty line.

Social characteristics:

Ethnicity	Black %	Hispanic %	Asian/PI %	Other/ Mixed %	Non-Hispanic White %
<i>I-210 Communities</i>					
Arcadia	1%	12%	55%	3%	29%
Sierra Madre	2%	14%	7%	4%	73%
La Canada	1%	4%	25%	2%	68%
Monrovia	9%	36%	10%	5%	40%
Bradbury	1%	11%	30%	3%	55%
Duarte	9%	51%	12%	4%	24%
Glendora	2%	27%	9%	4%	58%
Azusa	4%	67%	7%	2%	20%
Irwindale	1%	92%	1%	2%	4%
San Dimas	2%	27%	11%	3%	57%
La Verne	4%	29%	9%	4%	54%
Claremont	4%	19%	11%	7%	59%
<i>Averages</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>44%</i>
Los Angeles City	10%	51%	11%	4%	24%
Los Angeles County	9%	48%	13%	4%	26%
California	6%	38%	13%	4%	39%

	High School Grad	College Grad	Married	Foreign-born	Median Age
<i>I-210 Communities</i>					
Arcadia	92%	50%	56%	48%	41
Sierra Madre	98%	58%	57%	10%	46
La Canada	97%	68%	67%	22%	44
Monrovia	85%	35%	47%	23%	37
Bradbury	96%	54%	56%	25%	45
Duarte	80%	24%	48%	32%	38
Glendora	88%	30%	52%	15%	40
Azusa	73%	18%	42%	34%	29
Irwindale	62%	8%	48%	26%	30
San Dimas	92%	30%	52%	19%	40
La Verne	90%	32%	55%	15%	42
Claremont	93%	53%	48%	15%	38
<i>Averages</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>39</i>
Los Angeles City	73%	29%	40%	40%	33
Los Angeles County	76%	28%	45%	35%	34
California	81%	30%	49%	27%	35

Economic characteristics:

	In Labor Force	Median Family Income	Percent Below Poverty Line	Home-Owners
<i>I-210 Communities</i>				
Arcadia	62%	\$93,549	7%	64%
Sierra Madre	68%	\$123,056	2%	64%
La Canada	62%	\$167,260	2%	91%
Monrovia	69%	\$74,412	7%	48%
Bradbury	59%	\$155,972	3%	97%
Duarte	59%	\$65,257	7%	71%
Glendora	63%	\$87,118	2%	73%
Azusa	71%	\$57,110	10%	53%
Irwindale	61%	\$63,319	8%	66%
San Dimas	65%	\$61,880	4%	74%
La Verne	63%	\$74,686	5%	80%
Claremont	61%	\$103,579	4%	68%
<i>Averages</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>\$92,390</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>69%</i>
Los Angeles City	66%	\$52,932	16%	39%
Los Angeles County	65%	\$60,879	13%	49%
California	65%	\$68,909	10%	53%

Media Coverage: The *Los Angeles Times* publishes a special “San Gabriel Valley” edition with a focus on local issues. There are also numerous local papers, such as the *Pasadena Star-News* and *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, which cover the area extensively.

In conclusion, for numerous environmental, organizational, social and economic reasons, the cities and suburbs along I-210 in the Eastern San Gabriel Valley are a definite “community of interest.”