

May 9, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the Commission:

As you work to draw our new congressional and legislative lines under the auspices of Proposition 11 and Proposition 20, the Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce feels it is very important that we share our perspective on this endeavor.

The Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce has been proudly serving our community since 1914. As a Chamber, we have always taken the forefront in business advocacy, as well as the betterment of our community-at-large. Our leadership is recognized throughout the San Fernando Valley as being proactive in the political, social and public service arenas.

The community of Chatsworth is comprised of approximately 35,000 people and Porter Ranch approximately 16,000. Our communities consist of horse properties and gated communities with a strong emphasis on public safety. We are rural, bedroom communities surrounded by the Santa Susana Mountains. We have two neighborhood councils, the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, that work to give us a voice in the City of Los Angeles.

Currently, the Chatsworth/Porter Ranch area is represented by three separate Assemblymembers (36AD, 37AD and 38AD) and four members of Congress (based on the 91326 and 91311 zip code – CD24, CD25, CD27 and CD30.) We do not feel this is conducive to good representation for our area. We would like to see our community linked with other communities that share similar attributes and therefore, a more consolidated representative government.

We certainly appreciate the exercise you must go through to draw new lines throughout the State of California using the new census data. It will certainly be a challenge to uphold your constitutional duty and make all of the numbers work.

However, while we are just over the line in Los Angeles County, we share a business market with Simi Valley, Moorpark and Thousand Oaks and the Santa Clarita Valley as well. Many of our members are based in these areas and do business through the northwest San Fernando Valley, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Thousand Oaks and the Santa Clarita Valley.

We also share a transportation corridor - Highway 118 - with Ventura County, which was recently widened between Chatsworth and Simi Valley due to increased travel between these two areas. We are connected to the Santa Clarita Valley via Interstate 5.

We share a similar sense of community with these surrounding areas. We are more rural, family-oriented communities with scenic hillsides and valleys. We are communities that place a strong emphasis on higher education and public safety.

It should be noted that these areas did share a single assembly, senate and congressional district throughout the 1980's and 1990's until the Legislature split them up to protect their seats.

In closing, we would ask that you strongly consider placing Chatsworth and Porter Ranch in one assembly, senate and congressional district with surrounding communities of interest so our issues can be best represented by our elected officials.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Jerre Reimers
Vice President
Government Relations Committee
Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce
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Chatsworth, CA 91311