

[REDACTED]

Subject: Citizens Redistricting Commission

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 12:43 PM

From: baruch [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Cc: 'Baruch' [REDACTED]

Conversation: Citizens Redistricting Commission

My name is Baruch Eichenbaum. I am a resident of Tarzana, located in the West San Fernando Valley, and I work in Lake Balboa, located as well in the West San Fernando Valley.

On April 30, 2011 I attended the Citizens Redistricting Commission public input hearing in the City of San Fernando. Unfortunately, I was unable to address the Commission at that time, but was told a written note would carry the same weight as public input testimony, so here is my statement (that I heard echoed by at least eight other speakers).

Let me first thank you for holding hearings for all us citizens, and compliment you on asking for clarifications when speakers were not clear. I am proud to be part of this process and am looking forward to fair and equitable results that would make it easy, simple, and effective to deal with our governmental representatives, for all citizens in general, and specifically in the West San Fernando Valley.

The West San Fernando Valley is bordered by the 405 Freeway in the east and the Ventura County line on the west, with the important distinction of extending as far south as Mulholland Drive and as far north as the Los Angeles City limits. In watching your Norco meeting, I watched the Commission outline a community of interest in the West San Fernando Valley that left out the important areas south of the 101 Freeway, extending as far down as Mulholland Drive. Not only are these areas a crucial part of the Valley and fully within the Los Angeles City limits, but the 101 Freeway bisects the communities of Encino, Tarzana, and Woodland Hills. Should you draw your line there, you would be splitting these communities

in half, an unfair practice that has befallen the residents of the West San Fernando Valley in past years. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils also respect these lines, extending as far south as Mulholland Drive.

Also at the Norco meeting, the Commission outlined a community of interest in the West San Fernando Valley that demonstrated a misunderstanding of the Valley as extending as far north as the 118 Freeway. Those residents living north of the 118 Freeway and still within the Los Angeles City limits are residents of the respective communities of Granada Hills, Porter Ranch, and Chatsworth. These citizens are citizens of the Valley and of their respective neighborhoods, and must be included with the rest of the West San Fernando Valley in drawing the districts.

Please find attached a copy of “2010 Neighborhood Council Regional Area Map”

You’ll note that every neighborhood council district is either entirely east or west of the 405 Freeway. Also, Mulholland Drive forms the southern border for all the Valley council districts. Please note that the 101 freeway cuts through 16, 17, and 18, namely Woodland Hills, Tarzana and Encino.

Not only is Mulholland Drive a community boundary, but it also forms a natural boundary, as it represents the ridgeline of the Santa Monica Mountains. This effectively separates Valley communities from the West Los Angeles communities such as Brentwood, Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades. This is why the Valley and West Los Angeles should not be connected in any districts you draw.

Mulholland Drive is the dividing line for other purposes and reasons.

The people of Santa Monica have a beach. The folks in the City of Santa Monica are oriented toward the beach. In contrast, the folks in the San Fernando Valley and the Calabasas / Agoura Hills / Westlake Village area go to the Santa Monica Mountains for recreation. They are mountain and canyon oriented. They don't have a beach.

For mountain biking, hiking and equestrian activities, we in the West San Fernando Valley enter the Santa Mountain Recreation area from northern trail heads off Reseda, Hayvenhurst, Canoga, etc. These trail heads converge at Mulholland Drive.

The Santa Monica Mountains have more entry points from the San Fernando side than the West Los Angeles side, and when riding I run into other hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians from many West San Fernando Valley communities. In fact all the cities listed in the light blue of my attached chart. And we need one representative to represent our interest in protecting this federal land. It is as unique a place as any metropolitan area in California

The West San Fernando Valley deserves to be in its own district which is anchored in the West Valley. Do not carve us up in order to add more populations to districts outside of the Valley. Do not link us with the Westside of Los Angeles, nor with Santa Clarita Valley, nor with eastern Ventura County for that matter. The Valley is distinct not only because of its cultural and economic personality, but because it is surrounded almost completely by mountains. Please ensure that our districts are based in the West Valley so that residents don't have to drive long distances over mountainous terrain just to see their representatives. The West San Fernando Valley is its own "community of interest". Its borders are the Ventura County line in the west to the 405 Freeway in the east; the Los Angeles City limits to the north to Mulholland Drive in the south. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Baruch

BMC Inc.

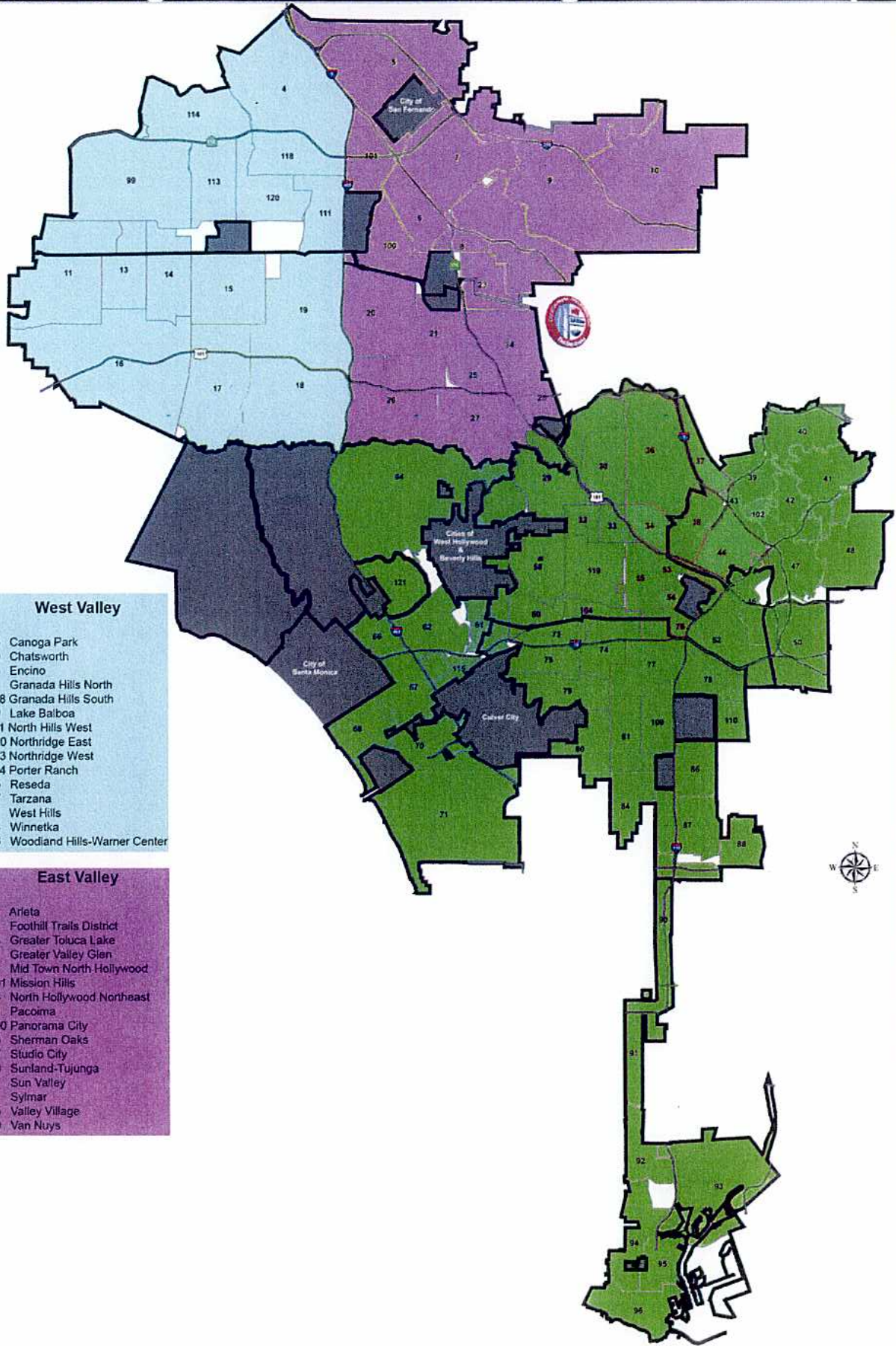


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2010 Neighborhood Council Regional Area Map



- West Valley**
- 13 Canoga Park
 - 99 Chatsworth
 - 18 Encino
 - 4 Granada Hills North
 - 118 Granada Hills South
 - 19 Lake Balboa
 - 111 North Hills West
 - 120 Northridge East
 - 113 Northridge West
 - 114 Porter Ranch
 - 15 Reseda
 - 17 Tarzana
 - 11 West Hills
 - 14 Winnetka
 - 16 Woodland Hills-Warner Center

- East Valley**
- 8 Arleta
 - 9 Foothill Trails District
 - 28 Greater Toluca Lake
 - 21 Greater Valley Glen
 - 24 Mid Town North Hollywood
 - 101 Mission Hills
 - 23 North Hollywood Northeast
 - 7 Pacoima
 - 100 Panorama City
 - 26 Sherman Oaks
 - 27 Studio City
 - 10 Sunland-Tujunga
 - 8 Sun Valley
 - 5 Sylmar
 - 25 Valley Village
 - 20 Van Nuys