



# CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

June 7, 2011



**Mayor:**  
Ken Stephens

**Mayor Pro Tem:**  
Troy D. Edgar

**Council Members:**  
Warren Kusumoto  
Gerri L. Graham-Mejia  
Marilynn M. Poe

**City Manager:**  
Jeffrey L. Stewart

Dr. Gabino Aguirre, Chair  
Citizens Redistricting Commission  
901 P Street, Suite 154-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: City of Los Alamitos' Comments on Tentative Orange County  
CD and AD Redistricting Maps**

Dear Dr. Aguirre and Members of the Redistricting Commission:

On June 6, 2011, the Los Alamitos City Council deliberated and developed formal commentary regarding the tentative Congressional District (CD), State Senate and Assembly District (AD) maps for Orange County. In the Commission's recently released tentative District Maps, the City of Los Alamitos was placed in proposed State Senate and Assembly Districts that include Los Alamitos, Huntington Beach, Seal Beach, Newport Beach and portions of Costa Mesa. In short, our City has been inappropriately included in a newly created "coastal Assembly District." That would result in fewer opportunities to work with cities like Cypress, La Palma, Garden Grove and Stanton, which share significant "communities of interest."

The City of Los Alamitos is the second smallest city in Orange County, and it is located at the northwest edge of the County adjacent to Long Beach and a group of Southwest Los Angeles County cities known as the Gateway cities. Over the years, our City has been successful in nurturing local alliances and areas of interest with our neighboring Orange County cities, and State and Assembly District members to the east of us Cypress, La Palma, Garden Grove and Stanton. In cooperation with local cities, Los Alamitos has worked to establish a regional Police Communications Center and developed a mutually staffed Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) Team. Additionally, the aforementioned cities are served by the same water providers, refuse collection firms, Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Fire Stations #2 and #17, and a regional medical center which handles trauma cases occurring north of the 405 Freeway.

Accordingly, my colleagues on the City Council and I believe strongly that Los Alamitos has developed important working relationships with those cities and has created significant "local communities of interest" that would be substantially weakened by the proposed Districts that would include larger coastal communities. Our strength and identity is, in part, developed by the relationships and commonalities shared with Cypress, La Palma, Garden Grove and Stanton. We feel that to be placed in a "coastal district" with larger, affluent coastal communities, would serve only to marginalize a

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Citizens Redistricting Commission  
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small, but important City in Orange County. Our concerns in many cases will simply not be their concerns.

In response to the tentative Congressional District maps, it appears that the Commission is somewhat undecided in where it seeks to place Los Alamitos. In one version, our City is included as a part of a Los Angeles County/Long Beach District. In another, the Commission has placed us in a similar new coastal district, as described above. Our request is consistent with that stated above in that our City be placed in a District with common communities of interest. As it pertains to Los Alamitos, the boundaries depicted in the recently released tentative District maps do not meet the specified criteria of the Citizens Redistricting Commission with regard to "local communities of interest" and maintaining "contiguous borders."

Finally, we want to add that we have also reviewed the comments made by the Association of California Cities – Orange County (AOCC-OC), and with regard to Los Alamitos, we concur with their recommendations.

My colleagues and I appreciate your consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at [REDACTED] extension 201.

Sincerely,

**CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS**



Kenneth Stephens  
Mayor

KS:jes

cc: City of Cypress  
City of La Palma  
City of Garden Grove  
City of Stanton  
Association of California Cities – Orange County