

Subject: Public Comment: San Fernando Valley District

Date: Friday, May 13, 2011 3:31 PM

From: MarniHaber [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Public Comment: San Fernando Valley District

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Subject: San Fernando Valley District

Message Body:

I'm a resident of Northridge and I once lived in the nearby community of Chatsworth. These are just two of the 15 West San Fernando Valley neighborhoods recognized by the City of Los Angeles as Neighborhood Councils. The others are Granada Hills North, Granada Hills South, Porter Ranch, North Hills West, Encino, Lake Balboa, Reseda, Winnetka, Canoga Park, Tarzana, and Woodland Hills. There are actually three Neighborhood Councils that represent different parts of my community: Northridge East, Northridge South, and Northridge West. Every West Valley Neighborhood Council district is west of the 405 Freeway.

These are all important communities that need be respected and kept together when creating districts. Do not split individual communities between districts, and do not separate some West Valley neighborhoods from others. We are a single "community of interest".

I would also like to state for the record that we are not Simi Valley, nor are we Santa Clarita. In fact, in a public comment submitted to the Commission on March 22, the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce stated as much: "There is, in fact, a natural boundary between the Simi Valley and Los Angeles County." This natural boundary is the Santa Susana Mountain range, and between the communities in the northwestern San Fernando Valley and the City of Simi Valley, there is nothing but mountains. Between the northern reaches of the San Fernando Valley and Santa Clarita, there is nothing but open space. It would make no geographical sense to connect the Valley with either of these areas.

In addition to topographical concerns, the West Valley has its own cultural, educational and economic community. People from the Valley stay within the Valley to do their shopping, dining, and business; they don't drive out to Simi Valley or go up to Santa Clarita. As a student at California State University, Northridge, I can attest to the fact that the West Valley has its educational needs met by schools here in the West Valley. Pierce College, the West Valley's community college, is located just 5 miles away from CSUN. In addition, we in the West Valley even have our own district within the Los Angeles Unified School District, called Local District 1. There is a separate Local District 2 that takes care of the East Valley.

As you can see, the West Valley is its own "community of interest" that should have its own representation. Please keep our community intact. Thank you.

Marni Haber

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