

GRAMMA THE POSTCARDING

5-17-2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Re: Senate Redistricting – 23rd District

Dear Commission Members:

My husband and I live in Encino, south of Ventura Boulevard, and I am writing to let you know that we support the current boundaries for the 23rd Senate District, encompassing as they do both the north and south sides of the Santa Monica Mountains. We understand that some areas of Los Angeles may benefit from redistricting, but neighborhoods like ours are not among them.

Whether to live in the hills or in the flats is one of the seminal lifestyle choices people make in Los Angeles. The choice to live in the hills is a choice to live more closely with nature. We hill dwellers like our city lights at a distance. We prefer feeling close to the sky or deep in a canyon's embrace over being in easy walking distance from stores, theaters, banks, civilization. We also value access to certain kinds of recreational opportunities. My husband is a cyclist. We like hiking with our three dogs. We are bird watchers. We are environmentalists.

Of course there are trade-offs. Hill dwellers, whether on the Valley side or on the Westside, share many of the same traffic and transportation needs and take many of the same roads. (The current 405/Sepulveda Pass Widening project inconveniences us all alike in the short run and will, we trust, serve to make our lives easier over the long haul.)

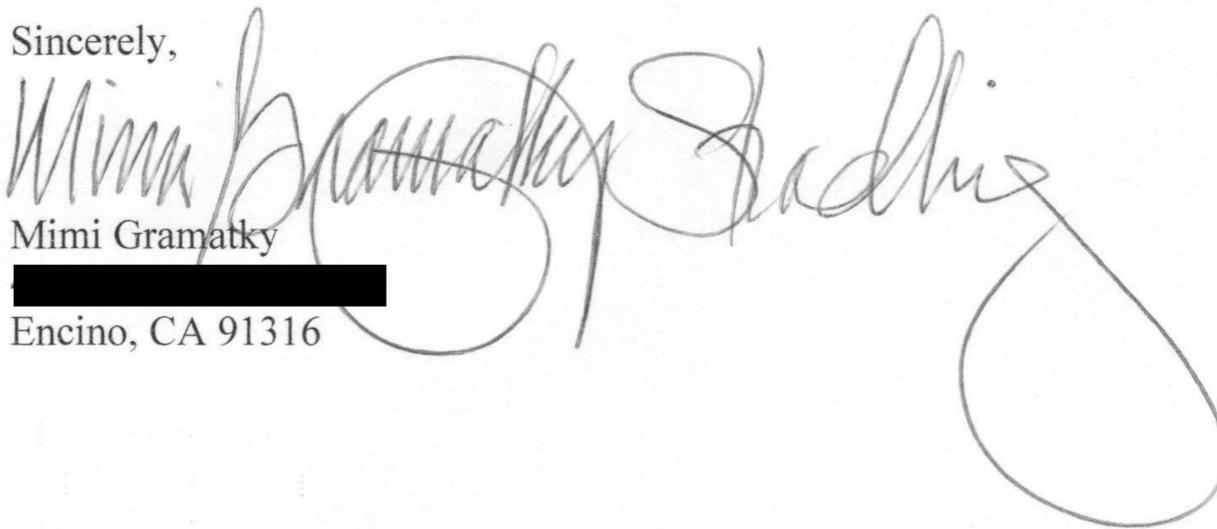
And then there are the increased risks from the seasonal cycle of brushfires and landslides, to which the mountains are particularly prone.

So people who live on the Valley side of the Santa Monica Mountains -- whether Agoura, Topanga, Woodland Hills, Tarzana, Encino (like we do), Sherman Oaks, Studio City -- have more in common with the hill dwellers of Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Bel Air, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Topanga, etc. -- than we have with most other parts of the Valley. Together the hill dwellers are a "community of interest" who share certain values and demographic characteristics -- and who are best served by a single Senate district,

providing State resources and representation for common needs like fire safety, recreational trail access and use, open space preservation, flood and landslide protection, transportation corridors through the mountains, etc. With one Senator representing us, we know who to call for help. And that Senator understands us and understands our needs and is able to be very responsive in a timely manner. And because we are a larger and more significant part of that Senator's constituency than would be the case if we were divided between two or more Senate districts, we have more access and more power.

Please do not dilute our representation. Preserve the existing boundaries of the 23rd Senate District. Our public safety and quality of life depend on it.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mimi Gramatky". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Mimi Gramatky

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Encino, CA 91316