

Subject: Public Comment: San Fernando Valley Redistricting

Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 1:46 AM

From: Barry Seybert [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Public Comment: San Fernando Valley Redistricting

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Subject: San Fernando Valley Redistricting

Message Body:

Citizens Redistricting Commission

1130 K Street, Suite 101

Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax (916) 322-0904

May 18, 2011

I am a member of the West Hills Neighborhood Council and a former City Council Candidate for the City of "San Fernando Valley" during the Succession Movement of the San Fernando Valley back in 2002. I am also on the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and once served on the West Valley Planning Committee under former Councilwoman Laura Chick. I am writing on my own behalf.

I am writing to request that the redistricting take into account the uniqueness of the San Fernando Valley and have district lines remain within the entire Valley area, not combining the Valley with the City on the other side of the hills. The borders of the San Fernando Valley are the ridgelines of the surrounding hills. The southern edge is basically recognized as Mulholland Drive.

The residents south of Mulholland Drive consider themselves within the City side of Los Angeles and the residents north of Mulholland consider themselves in the San Fernando Valley. The interests on either side of Mulholland Drive are totally different to each other. Environmental, Political, Traffic flow, and ways of life differ between the two sides. We need Representatives who can represent our interests and not representatives who serve both sides and have to decide which group to favor.

I also encourage you to look at Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils as District borders. Currently an imaginary line runs down certain streets bisecting communities between multiple representatives. It would be much nicer if recognized communities were within a single district.

The West San Fernando Valley is a unique "community of interest" that should be respected when federal and state districts are being drawn. The West San Fernando Valley is bounded by the 405 Freeway to the east and the L.A./Ventura County border to the west; the West Valley goes to the Los Angeles City limits to the north and goes south to Mulholland Drive. Once again, the ridgeline should be considered as the north, south, and west borders so communities stay intact.

If the West Valley itself does not have enough population for a complete district, please include the City of Calabasas, the City of Hidden Hills, the City of Agoura Hills, the City of Westlake Village and the Bell Canyon area. These areas have much more in common with the San Fernando Valley than does West Los Angeles. Even Simi Valley can much more identify with similar issues than West Los Angeles if additional population is needed to create a District. It might be across the Los Angeles County line, but we share many more interests.

West Los Angeles is not part of the San Fernando Valley and should not be included in Valley districts. West Los Angeles is on the other side of Mulholland Drive, across the Santa Monica Mountains, and is not a logical place to connect with the West Valley. Existing LA Neighborhood Councils boundaries are a good map to use for the West San

Fernando Valley "community of interest".
Respectfully Submitted

Barry Seybert

Board Member – West Hills Neighborhood Council, Co-Chair West Hills NC Streets and Transportation Committee, Chair West Hills NC Street Furniture Fund, Member West Hills NC Beautification Committee, Environmental Committee and Budget Committee, represent West Hills NC at the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, represent Council District 3 on the Los Angeles Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee, member of Councilman Zine's P.O.S.S.E.E., former member of Councilwoman Chick's West Valley Planning Committee, former Co-Chair of Councilwoman Chick's Orange Line Feasibility Study,

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