

Subject: Letter to the Redistricting Commission**Date:** Sunday, May 22, 2011 8:20 PM**From:** [REDACTED]**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Cc:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** Letter to the Redistricting Commission

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

Everything below is essential to be sure. We are in a state of transition that is developing into quite a slippery slope! I personally have lived in Topanga for 21 years and have watched the traffic go from a pleasant driving experience to a virtual nightmare. In hazardous and emergency situations such as fire, flood or earthquake, residents will already be endangered by the lack of unobstructed escape routes. This is apparent even while trying to leave the canyon during the time that schools let out in the area and folks are on their way to work. You have the opportunity to help limit future problems by hearing our concerns. Please take the time to think carefully about what will happen to your community without the air, space and solidarity of your fellow neighbors. Please also take into consideration the wildlife and the nature surrounding your area and how tragic it would be to lose such important elements as these which are essential to ours and our children's health and well being. Please don't let short term greed and irrational decisions destroy this area for future generations. We as citizens, lay this responsibility in your hands!

We are writing to express our strong desire for binding the communities situated near the Santa Monica Mountains in a shared legislative district. These communities traverse inland regions to the coast, and include West Hills, Hidden Hills, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, and Malibu. In this regard, I respectfully request that the Commission consider a return to the 1991 legislative boundaries for the Santa Monica Mountain vicinity. The 1991 districts bordered along county lines, and were inclusive of our community of interest.

While the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is accessible to all residents of California, it is those who live nearest to these mountains that are motivated to preserve the natural beauty and quality of life that they inspire. Any redistricting effort that divides this region will dilute our voice in the legislatures and compromise our ability to limit development and preserve the natural beauty of these mountains for all to enjoy.

The ecology of our area requires careful stewardship. The Santa Monica Mountains are linked to the north by the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Preserve, which serves as a corridor for wildlife in this part of our State. Our communities are also part of the North Santa Monica Bay Watersheds. The Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council includes representatives of the cities of Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, and Westlake Village.

The communities of West Hills, Hidden Hills, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Malibu, and the adjacent unincorporated communities are deeply connected through collaboration and services. These communities form the Las Virgenes - Malibu Council of Governments. The COG is the core of Los Angeles County's Disaster Management Area B. These communities collaborate in the Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance.

The inland communities are served by a single Sheriff's Station, located in Calabasas. These communities are served by three Fire Stations, located in Agoura Hills, Calabasas, and Westlake Village. The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides these communities with water and sewer services. The communities are also united through the distinguished Las Virgenes Unified School District. Several schools in this district have been honored by the California Distinguished Schools Program and the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

Our strength as an interactive and collaborative community of interest rests on our ability to have a shared legislative voice. Our shared interest in preserving the ecology and beauty of the Santa Monica Mountains region is but one of the many elements that binds us together. Please respect the integrity of our communities and our quality of life by returning to the 1991 legislative boundaries for the Santa Monica Mountains vicinity.

Attached are maps of the 1991 legislative districts for the Santa Monica Mountains area.

With best regards,

John Kassir

John Kassir

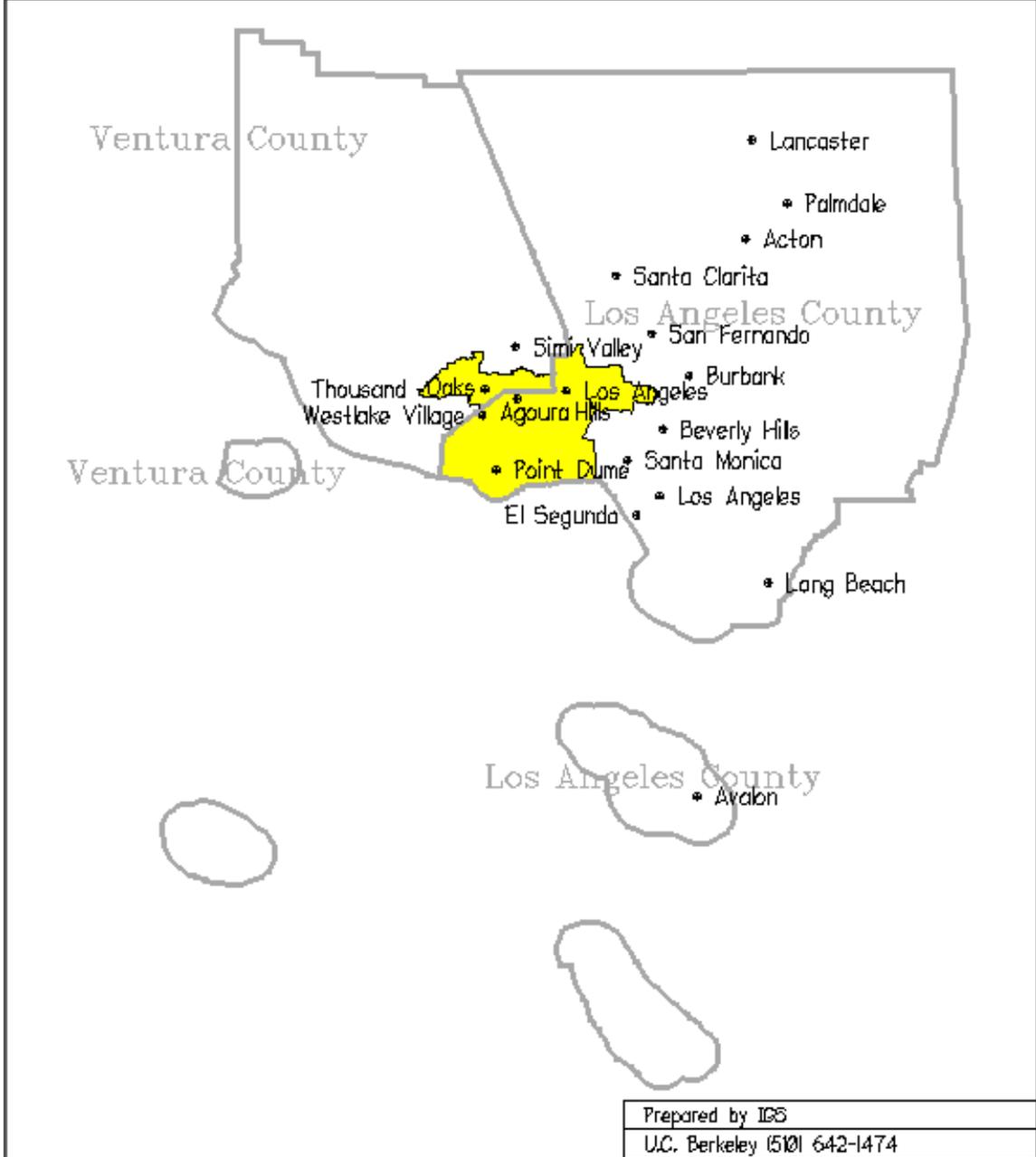
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Topanga, CA 90290

attached file: 1991-legislative-maps.pdf

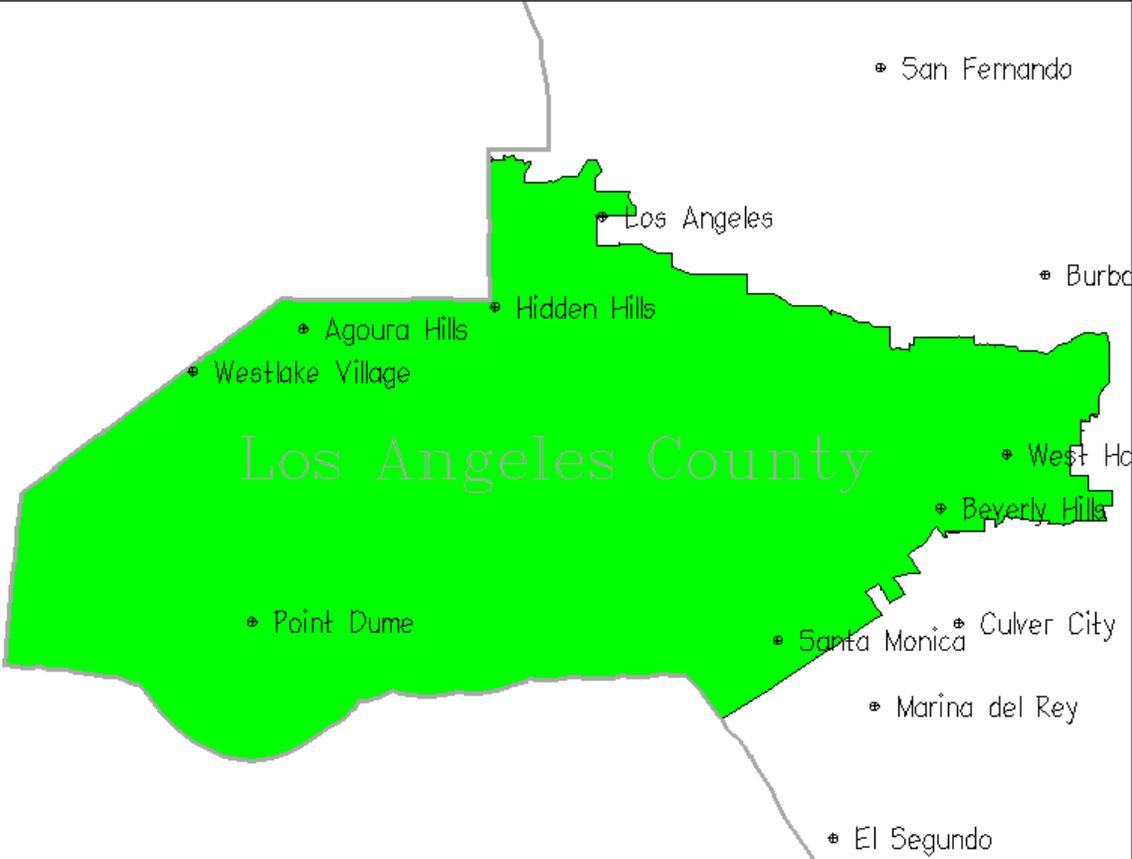
Congressional District 24



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