

June 14, 2011

Dear Commissioners,

I was very disappointed to see that my original comments dated May 15, 2011 are still not posted on your site. I was also disappointed to see the first draft of your maps. It appears to me as if the commission actually does not want the representatives to be accessible to their constituents.

I know that there were comments - particularly by VICA, Valley Vote et al, that stated that the San Fernando Valley should be seen as a separate "Community of Interest". This is important to residents in particular of the City of Los Angeles at the far west side that may need to plan to leave for a trip to downtown that will take two hours.

We have asked for a complete Congressional district to be in the San Fernando Valley.

You have drawn a Congressional map that is called West San Fernando Valley - but you have failed to take into account the natural land barriers of rugged mountain terrain of the Santa Susana Mountain range. You have placed the Santa Clarita area with W. San Fernando rather than in a district that it is in closer proximity to it via the freeways - the East San Fernando Valley Congressional district.

A more representative district for the West San Fernando Valley would be to include the area west of the 405 in the West San Fernando Valley Congressional District.

There is absolutely no excuse to not take the West San Fernando Valley Congressional District that you have designed, and add the same area west of the 405 freeway to that district for a State Senate District wholly within the West San Fernando Valley, and possibly include the communities of Agoura Hills and Westlake Village that are still within Los Angeles County, and still have freeway access.

There is no excuse for not putting communities by the ocean into districts that they are more contiguous with - preferably with a district that includes Malibu or Oxnard.

As the current State Senate District is drawn - and I have had to estimate those key cities - the southwest portion is near Point Mugu Naval Base. The northern most point is near Lebec. The district includes the community of West Hills.

I have used GOOGLE maps to plot a route from that southwest corner to generate the distance from the southwest corner to the northern boundary.

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Pt.+Mugu,+Pacific+Coast+Hwy.,+California&daddr=West+Hills,+CA+to:Santa+Clarita,+CA+to:Lebec,+CA&geocode=FFXICAIdgKXm-

[Cm_kB9AD7PCgDFHI6QGALVG_Q%3BFc70CQIIdir3t-CmjVyKjg53CgDHP51XcOvrPPg%3BFXDGDAIdBi_v-CknGNWsM4bCgDFI1gVz4I9KVg%3BFSykEwIdTUTq-ClxKd0o8e_pgDFsBdnKLfeczw&hl=en&mra=ls&sll=34.746306,-118.764064&sspn=2.270228,3.510132&ie=UTF8&z=9&dirflg=d](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Pt.+Mugu,+Pacific+Coast+Hwy.,+California&daddr=West+Hills,+CA+to:Santa+Clarita,+CA+to:Lebec,+CA&geocode=FFXICAIdgKXm-Cm_kB9AD7PCgDFHI6QGALVG_Q%3BFc70CQIIdir3t-CmjVyKjg53CgDHP51XcOvrPPg%3BFXDGDAIdBi_v-CknGNWsM4bCgDFI1gVz4I9KVg%3BFSykEwIdTUTq-ClxKd0o8e_pgDFsBdnKLfeczw&hl=en&mra=ls&sll=34.746306,-118.764064&sspn=2.270228,3.510132&ie=UTF8&z=9&dirflg=d)

That total distance is about 112 miles, and it would minimally take about 2 ½ hours. However the reality is – there is usually gridlock on the 101 freeway – one of the

most busy freeways in the world. Traffic usually bottlenecks between Thousand Oaks and Woodland Hills. To go north into West Hills would require surface streets. The distance from Pt. Mugu to West Hills would be about 37 miles and take about 56 minutes – at a minimum.

The next step of that trip – West Hills to Santa Clarita is about 2.5 miles – and would take an estimated 42 minutes. The 118 freeway and the 405 freeways also have gridlock – and those times are very unlikely.

The final trip from Santa Clarita to Lebec is about another 47.6 miles – and about another 54 minutes. All of this assumes favorable driving conditions.

How are the representatives of our elected officials expected to drive these distances and represent close to a million people?

Finally, you have included the community of West Hills in the State Assembly District that includes the northern portion of the State Senate District. Those distances that I have quoted between West Hills and Lebec would be the same distances for the Assembly member's representatives to travel.

West Hills and the communities around it including Woodland Hills, Bell Canyon, and Chatsworth should be included in the West San Fernando Valley Assembly District. Currently West Hills is divided and has two Assembly members – one has an office in Van Nuys, another has an office in Westlake Village. These offices in the Valley enable our elected officials to be more accessible to our communities.

I hope that you will consider the needs of all California residents not only in terms of ethnic diversity, minority populations, communities of interest, but also in terms of geographic boundaries and traffic patterns.

Sincerely,

**Christine Rowe
West Hills, CA**

Subject: Redistricting

From: bipasha Shom <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 21:41:36 +0000

To: <[REDACTED]>

CC: <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>

Hello, I live in Studio City.

I have been hearing about plans to redistrict our area and am very concerned about the proposals.

I am worried that our area will be grouped together with other areas that do not share the same concerns. I have heard that the San Fernando Valley will be linked with Santa Clarita which is far out of our region. Meanwhile, Sherman Oaks which is close by and with whom we share a great deal in common will be grouped separately from us.

Can you please explain to me why this is being done and what good it will bring to our area?

Thank You,

Bipasha Shom

Studio City Resident

Subject: June 10 first draft

From: Karen Haber <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 13:47:13 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

hello,

please don't re district studio city and all the surrounding communities as you are planning.

our family lives in the colfax meadows area in studio city.

we want to be districted with our community. wouldn't you?

please don't split us up into meaningless boxes on a map. we are a vibrant community. we participate in the political process. we help in our schools. we do things like volunteer at tree people. please don't split our studio city community up. please don't split up any communities. what is the point of that?

please keep me informed about what is going on.

thank you,
karen haber camp

Subject: Comment: New District Maps for Northeast Los Angeles

From: Elva Yanez <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 13:45:39 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Elva Yanez; I am a resident of the northeast Los Angeles neighborhood of El Sereno. I attended the Commission's April 28th redistricting hearing held at Los Angeles City Hall. I am writing to express my support for the new district boundaries released June 10th.

I am very pleased that you took my testimony into account as well as the input of many of my neighbors. The new maps you developed provide a fair representation of my community and are respectful of Los Angeles City boundaries, our school district and our public safety service areas. These maps keep our community intact and allows us to have stronger political representation.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Elva Yanez
[REDACTED]