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June 16, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
[Redacted]

Subject: Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association Concerns on Splitting Sherman Oaks Between Two U.S. Congressional Districts

Dear Honorable Commission Members,

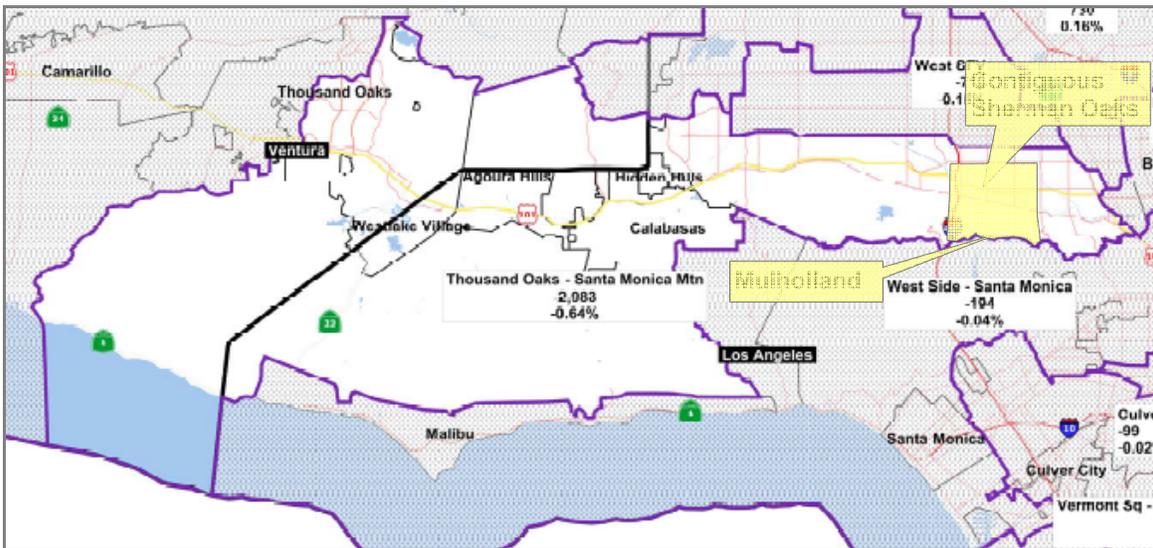
The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) represents a broad swath of homeowners in the Southern part of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles. Sherman Oaks is one of the oldest communities in the Valley. It is a large community, bounded by Mulholland Drive on the south, the I-405 freeway on the west, Burbank Boulevard on the north, and Coldwater Canyon Boulevard on the east.

SOHA has been a part of this community since our founding in 1964. With a membership of several thousand, we see how our community works together on local projects and cares about our community of interest, which is the San Fernando Valley. SOHA's monthly meetings draw up to 500 attendees, especially when our residents get to participate in debates for hotly contested political seats.

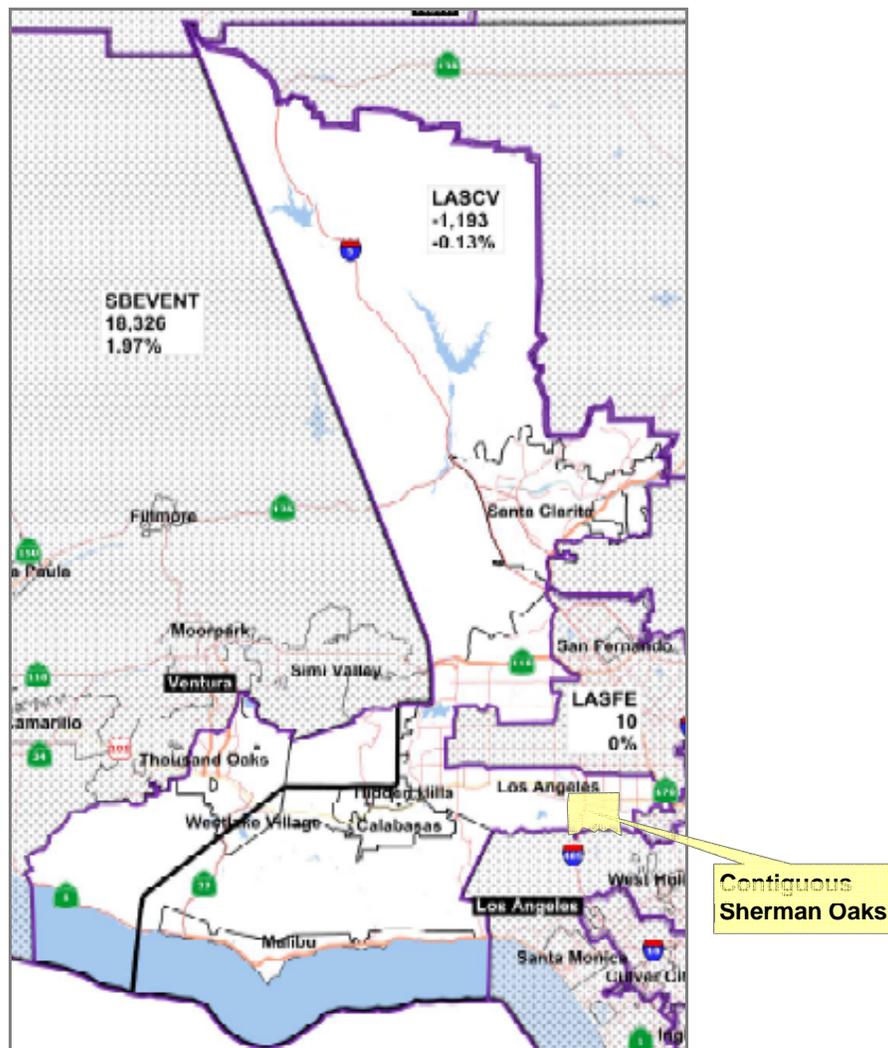
We appreciate that the Commission's redistricting maps have kept the Sherman Oaks community whole within the "Thousand Oaks – Santa Monica Mountains" California Assembly District and "Los Angeles – Santa Clarita Valley" California Senate District (see maps on page 2). Placing the boundaries for both districts at Mulholland Drive is the right answer. This allows Sherman Oaks to participate in state politics as an integral unit, and as part of the greater San Fernando Valley.

However, we are very concerned that the Commission's redistricting maps have split Sherman Oaks into two U.S. Congressional districts. The split occurs along Ventura Boulevard, with the northern half of Sherman Oaks in the "West San Fernando Valley – Calabasas" U.S. Congressional District and the southern half in the "West Los Angeles – Downtown" U.S. Congressional District (see maps on page 3). This makes no sense because it removes the southern half of Sherman Oaks from its San Fernando Valley community of interest, and groups it with a district that stretches from Downtown Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean – a distance of more than 17 miles. We understand the difficulty of balancing populations among districts, but this difficulty should not disrupt well-established communities of interest.

Concerns on Splitting Sherman Oaks Between Two U.S. Congressional Districts

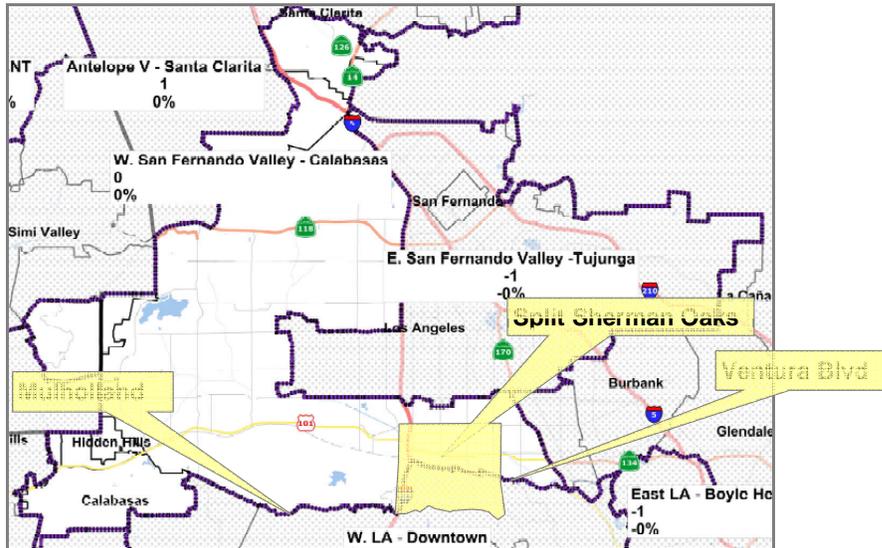


Proposed California Assembly District: "Thousand Oaks – Santa Monica Mountains"

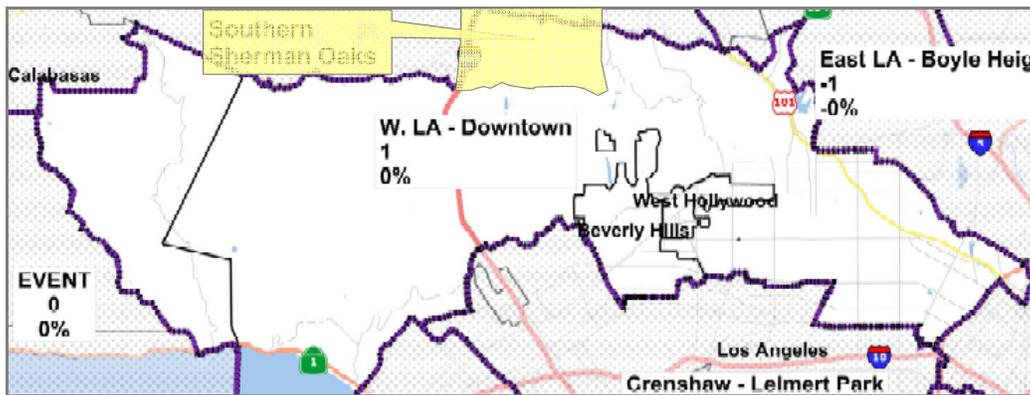


Proposed California Senate District: "Los Angeles – Santa Clarita Valley"

Concerns on Splitting Sherman Oaks Between Two U.S. Congressional Districts



Proposed U.S. Congressional District: “West San Fernando Valley – Calabasas”



Proposed U.S. Congressional District: “West Los Angeles – Downtown”

The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association strongly recommends that the Commission reconsider the U.S. Congressional Districts in question, and modify the proposed “West San Fernando Valley – Calabasas” District to encompass all of Sherman Oaks, i.e., move the southern district boundary to Mulholland Drive.

Thank you for your consideration.

You can contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Bob Anderson
Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association
Chair, Redistricting Committee

Subject: Do not Divide Sherman Oaks

From: Jonathan Kern <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 21:54:47 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

Please do not divide up Sherman Oaks. We are a strong community of families and businesses. I strongly object.

Jon Kern

[REDACTED]
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
[REDACTED]

Subject: My Community of Interest

From: "Paul Gamberg" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 21:39:53 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

CC: "'Bob Hillside Anderson'" <[REDACTED]>

2396 Nalin is part of Bel Air...Can you send me a draft map.

Our Northern Neighbor is Sherman Oaks which extends down to touch us at Mulholland.

Paul Gamberg

Roscomare Valley Section of Bel Air...part of Supervisor 3.

Subject: Don't divide Sherman Oaks

From: Dori Semenov <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 22:06:48 -0700 (PDT)

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Please do not redistrict Sherman Oaks into half this Thursday. Keep our political borders intact with Mulholland as our southern border.

- Dori Semenov
14 yrs resident of Sherman Oaks

Subject: dividing Sherman Oaks

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 15 Jun 2011 01:52:22 -0400 (EDT)

To: [REDACTED]

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a resident of the wonderful community of Sherman Oaks, in the San Fernando Valley, and have been for 28 years. For a well established, older suburb, Sherman Oaks has a very strong community feeling with residents that are actively involved in their local issues. It's always been a pleasure to live in such a united and involved community within the tremendously large city of Los Angeles. Please do not redistrict our community. We need to remain united and active. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Janet and Wayne Holtzman
Sherman Oaks, California

Subject: Sherman Oaks

From: Rhona Gordon <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 21:38:58 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

I am writing as a resident of Sherman Oaks who is very concerned about splitting our community in two. We are a very close knit community and I would hate to see it split in two.

We are an active group who work hard to keep it a place we want to live in.

I am opposed to splitting it and want my voice to be heard.

Rhona Gordon

[REDACTED]
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Subject: Do not divide Sherman Oaks at Ventura Blvd.

From: K Callan <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 22:43:51 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

Sherman Oaks is a close knit community with activists we've been growing for years.
Don't divide our family.
The natural divide is at Mulholland - one side of the hill and the other side of the hill.
Please.
Reconsider.
Do not divide us at Ventura Blvd.
Thank you.

Katherine Callan

Subject: Sherman Oaks

From: David Gordon [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 23:10:27 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Commission,

Sherman Oaks is a neighborhood that should not be divided. Our southern border is Mulholland Drive, not Ventura Boulevard, and that should be reflected in any and all political districting because it is the reality of the situation. The people in the hills of Sherman Oaks do not drive out of town to do their local business. They drive to the bottom of the hill and cross Ventura Boulevard to partake in everything the local marketplace has to offer. That area at the bottom of the hill, on both sides of Ventura Boulevard and beyond, is the town in which they live... Sherman Oaks.

Sincerely,

David Gordon
[REDACTED]

Subject: proposed redistricting

From: Charise Mitchell <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 15 Jun 2011 01:44:32 -0400

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

CC: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]> Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association <[REDACTED]>

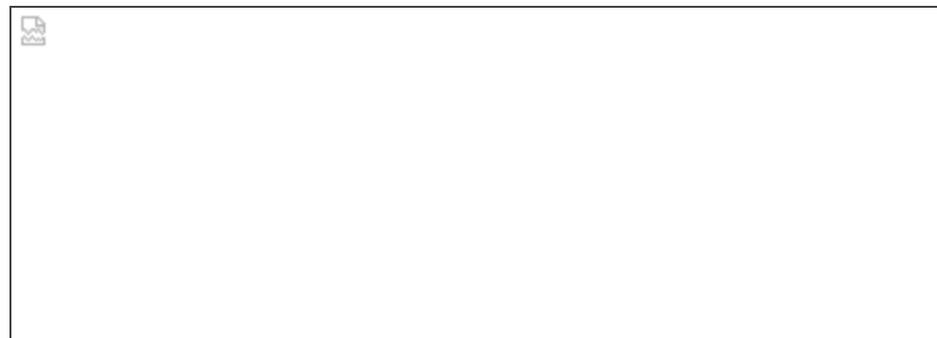
As a long time resident of Sherman Oaks, I must ask you not to change our boundaries. We are a very cohesive and active community, and are proud of our neighborhood. We should not be a community divided by Ventura blvd, but let the division stand at Mulholland Drive.

Personally, I have had homes both "south of the Blvd", and currently live "north of the blvd". The named boulevard is, of course, Ventura Blvd. I have raised my children in Sherman Oaks, they went to the schools in Sherman Oaks, and they also have a strong sense of community and belonging. I work in Sherman Oaks, play in Sherman Oaks, patronize our local business operators.

I see no sense in dividing a wonderful community, with different representation. We should be represented as a whole, have a voice for our concerns as a whole, have our needs met as a whole.

Sincerely,

Charise Mitchell, proud Sherman Oaks resident



 <http://www.listin>

Subject: Redistricting Maps

From: "Paul Beck" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 23:54:52 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an attorney and a long-time (since 1996) resident of Sherman Oaks. I also have my office in Sherman Oaks. However, if the map you have proposed is adopted, my home will be in one district and my office, which is 1.2 miles and 5 minutes from my home, will be in the other district.

Sherman Oaks is a close-knit neighborhood a well-organized and active community. We have a vibrant and engaged community of interest. Please do not divide this community. The southern border of our Congressional District should still be Mulholland Drive, not Ventura Blvd.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

Paul A. Beck
Law Offices of Paul A. Beck
A Professional Corporation

[REDACTED]
Sherman Oaks, CA. 91423

Ph: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Subject: regarding redistricting Sherman Oaks

From: j grant <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 21:42:15 -0700 (PDT)

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

I implore you to keep Sherman Oaks the community it has always been; the one we moved here to live in. To break up this area would be to feed bits of us to other communities who care nothing for our needs and the work we have done all these years. It makes absolutely no sense to break up an area whose desires are similar unless there is an ulterior motive that is not in our best interests. We all, in my neighborhood feel threatened by this impending action. Please keep Sherman Oaks in tact. We are happy to have other areas join us, but it is sinister to divide us.

Sincerely,
Judith Grant
Greenleaf Street
Sherman Oaks