July 06, 2011

To: California Redistricting Commission

Attention: Karin MacDonald

Reference: Letter submitted to Commissioners on July 6, 2011

Regarding: Proposal for Foothill District in L.A. County submitted by Sunland-Tujunga NC

Dear Ms. MacDonald,

We have been advised that you are the person responsible for drawing the district lines. Per our commitment in our letter referenced above, we are submitting the Petitions we collected to support our request to the Commission to put our unique district in place, and we are also including a map for your convenience.

It was brought to our attention today that there is an area that is in the County of L.A. nestled in the canyon above the city’s Sylmar community, between the 14 and I-5, who would like to join our District. Their population is only about 400 and they would fit nicely with us because they would be joined together with Lopez and Kagel Canyons who are also set back in the foothills of the County.

We would appreciate your attention to this new additional to our Plan.

Respectfully,

Nina Royal
Redistricting Advocate
For Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
July 6, 2011

To: Redistricting Commissioners

Subject: Proposal for Foothill District in L.A. County

We have traveled to three meetings in L.A. County and were unable to speak because our speaker numbers were too high.

We are proposing a unique Foothill District along the Rim of the Valley in L.A. County to include, Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon, Sunland-Tujunga, La Crescenta, Montrose, La Canada-Flintridge, Glendale and Burbank for both State and Federal Districts. Our diverse communities are closely related regarding education, income, housing and we share the following common interest: Fire Protection and Disaster Response, (our neighbors were very instrumental and battling the Station Fire in our Foothills together last year.) Protection of the Rim of the Valley, Angeles Forest/San Gabriel and Verdugo Mountains, Watershed, (15% of L.A.’s water comes from our Foothills watershed) Equestrian and Hiking Trails, the Eco System, Wild Life, Native Plants and Trees, Preservation of Historical Sites, Transportation, and share many other Quality of Life issues. Our rural communities depend on Glendale and Burbank for Colleges, Medical/Hospitals and Entertainment Centers and we share the Verdugos and Rim of the Valley. All our communities have a proven history of working together.

We have met with members of the above communities who are anxious to join together. However, they have not had an opportunity to take a formal vote as of yet because it must be agonized, but they agree that this should be the natural order. Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council took an informal Straw Vote during our last General Meeting because the motion was not agonized. But, over 100 people voted unanimously for this “Proposed District” We will also be forwarding, via Federal Express today, eleven Petition Sheets and possibly more with signatures taken over the 4th of July, along with a map outlining our Proposal. We will also be submitting letters from the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, which includes the communities of Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills and La Tuna Canyon and also the Crescenta Valley Civic Assoc. Neither Burbank or Glendale have taken a formal stand and but they have not voiced an objection to our proposal. There were several signatures from members of other communities who believe this is a good proposal. Jill Barad Banks, President of the San Fernando Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils signed the Petition because she also believes that our communities should be our own district, outside the San Fernando Valley, due to our demographics and common interest.

We are asking you to please give our Proposal your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Nina Royal

Redistricting Advocate

for Sunland-Tujunga NC
July 7, 2011

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commissioners:

The Lake View Terrace Improvement Association has been in existence for well over 60 years. Our organization has been on the forefront all this time as an association that cares deeply about retaining the character of our community. This community is presently represented by stakeholders who are very concerned about the planned redistricting. We request that when drawing the new lines for the proposed redistricting map for the State of California, and Federal Government, that your committee look closely at the lines that we feel should include the areas of Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon, Sunland, Tujunga, La Crescenta, Montrose, La Canada-Flintridge, Glendale and Burbank.

Consider taking a field trip on the 2 and 210 Freeways from Burbank through Lake View Terrace and you will see that we have much in common. The San Gabriel and the Verdugo Mountains along with the Big Tujunga Wash and its tributaries, which feed into the Los Angeles River are in our backyards, and when the rainy season comes these areas provide the needed catch basins that protect the low lying areas of our City of The Angels, and connect our communities.

Because the communities of Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills and La Tuna Canyon are all located in the foothills of the San Gabriel and/or Verdugo Mountains we share the same life style, open space, (which we all know protects the environment), wildlife, trees, flora, etc. This region provides many opportunities for passive recreational activities including equestrian, hiking, cycling and fishing. You must protect the Angeles National Forest, the Rim of the Valley Trail and the planned commitment to turn the now closed Lopez Canyon Landfill into a place that will provide trails for hikers, equestrians, families and stakeholders from everywhere to visit.

We see the commonality that the prior mentioned communities have with the communities of Sunland-Tujunga, La Crescenta, La Canada-Flintridge and Montrose which is rural and also located between the mountain ranges of the San Gabriels and Verdugos. Glendale and Burbank, which also have a mix of rural and low-density suburban housing are located at the base of the Verdugo Mountains and serve as a hub for shopping, business and entertainment interests for many.

Our communities share the same watershed and should be kept together to create and retain its natural water retention, purification and ground-water properties. 15% of the ground water for the City of Los Angeles is also found here. It is perfect for the development of aquifer recharge facilities.

The 210 Freeway is the common connecting transportation corridor to these communities. For a district to present few conflicting interests for its elected representatives would make it far easier for them to serve rhwie constituents well. The past version of the redistrict map does reflect serious conflicting interests. The above-mentioned communities share many common bonds and would best reflect a unified mindset. Please preserve this “diamond in the rough”, as the treasure that it is for the people of State of California and others who desire to enjoy nature only minutes from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Respectfully,

Cile Borman
Lake View Terrace Improvement Association
June 17, 2011

California Redistricting Commission

Re: Change of District Boundary

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

I am an active member of the Foothill community of Los Angeles County. I currently serve as President of the Kagel Canyon Civic Association, I am a member of the Foothill Trail District Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee, I am a representative of The Federation of Hill Sides, and I also participate with various other North Valley organizations operating within the Foothill communities.

The neighborhoods of Sunland-Tujunga, La Tuna Canyon, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, Kagel Canyon, La Crescenta and Montrose are all adjacent communities within the Foothill area. These afore mentioned areas, along with Glendale and Burbank, should be included in their own District.

Kagel Canyon is a small community, but it is vital that we be included in a District with common interests, such as those of our nearest neighbors. By including all of the above areas in one District, you will protect our rural suburban character.

I urge the Commissioners to safeguard our interests. We value and embrace a rural suburban lifestyle which allows us to live and work close to nature, while offering unique and varied neighborhood-based shopping opportunities, quality schools, and a variety of recreational opportunities. Our shared collective history to our neighbors in the Foothill Mountains is paramount to us.

We seek to protect our open space, advocate sustainable and responsible development, work to preserve and enhance our unique individual neighborhood character, provide sensible transportation options to our citizens and balance land uses within the “Foothills.”

Thank you for your service on the Redistricting Commission.

Respectfully,

Marlene Rader
President, KCCA
June 16, 2000

To: Ca. Redistricting Commissioners

Subject: Change of District Boundary for Sunland-Tujunga and Neighbors.

The last revision of the map that was released last week will have a negative impact on Sunland-Tujunga and neighboring communities with whom we share the same interest. We understand that your Commission will listen to "community of interest testimony". Presently, your map has included us in a region that is geographically not in sync regarding communities who share the same interest as Sunland-Tujunga. Please note that our area has only 11% of Latino voting population, which we believe is not a significant amount to be considered in your decision making process regarding Sunland-Tujunga.

Sunland-Tujunga’s income, education and housing are closer to the communities whom we want to be included with are as follows: Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon, La Crescenta, Montrose, Glendale and Burbank. We identify with these communities and share the following concerns: The protection of The Rim of the Valley and Angeles Forrest, the Verdugo Hills, Watershed, Equestrian and hiking trails, the environment, wildlife protection, protection of native trees and plants, and the preservation of open space, etc. Also, because we are rural, we do all our shopping in Glendale and Burbank.

During the STNC General Board meeting on Wednesday, June 8, a Straw Vote was taken of over 100 community members in attendance who voted unanimously to ask the Commissioners to include Sunland-Tujunga, along with our above referenced neighbors who share common interest, to be included in the same district as Glendale and Burbank. Regardless of who our Elected Representatives will be - if our foothill communities can stay united - we will have a better chance of protecting our environment and preserving our open space for future generations to enjoy for years to come.

We have proven history of partnering with the Kagel Canyon and the La Crescenta communities and other communities mentioned above. As it is now, the last of our open space is constantly under attack by developers and we are spending much of our time defending it from destruction. With the help of our foothill area neighbors, we can help prevent this from happening!

In order to prove a point, please note the following memo that was sent to Glendale community members

"The City of Glendale Planning staff has been working with community members to create a plan for future development in North Glendale, based on their following vision:

"We value and embrace a rural suburban lifestyle which allow us to live and work close to nature, offers unique and varied neighborhood-based shopping opportunities, quality schools, a variety of recreational opportunities and recognizes our connection to the mountains, neighboring communities, and our history. We seek to protect open space, advocate sustainable and responsible development, preserve and enhance neighborhood character, provide transportation options and balance land uses."

The Planning Division will present and receive comments on the Draft North Glendale Community Plan on: Wednesday, June 29, 2011, 6 to 8 p.m. Sparr Heights Community Center [Redacted]

I am a 25 year activist in Sunland-Tujunga and serve on the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council LandUse Committee, Chamber of Commerce Board, local Police Advisory Board and Publisher/Editor of the North Valley Reporter, this area’s newspaper. I have a good feel for our communities needs. I am asking you to honor our community by granting the above request.

Owen Royal
Nina Royal
June 16, 2011

Subject: Change of District Boundary for Sunland-Tujunga and Neighbors

Dear Redistricting Commission,

My personal background is - a business owner in Glendale, Burbank and Sunland-Tujunga, President and Secretary of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC), a member of the STNC Land Use Committee, LA City Neighborhood Council Review Commission, on the Board of the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce, member of several service and other community organizations. I am very active in the Foothill communities that I am speaking about.

The community of Sunland-Tujunga, La Tuna Canyon, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, Kagel Canyon, La Crescenta and Montrose are all part of the Foothills area. They, along with Glendale and Burbank, should be included in our own District.

During "Station Fire" in 2009, Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace along with Shadow Hills and La Tuna Canyon neighbors were here to assist us with evacuation of our horses and other animals and helped to provide emergency services. Those communities referenced above, also helped Sunland-Tujunga fight against a Home Depot, who was going to locate in an undesirable neighborhood in Sunland-Tujunga. All the above communities are also fighting to save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, in the Verdugo Hills, from being developed into multiple unit homes. We, in turn, helped to save Glendale's Oakmont V from being developed and helped the Kagel Canyon community during the "Marek Fire" and also to fight the development of Lopez Canyon. We are all working together to stop the expansion of the 710 freeway tunnel because of environmental and financial reasons. We have work together with our neighbors in La Crescenta: both the Glendale and County portions. We have similar issues with public safety, future development and emergency preparedness because of our geographic boundaries. It is for these reasons and more that we need to stay together. We have more in common with the above referenced communities than those we have been designated to be with on the present draft map. The only interest we share with those communities as mapped out are the same city government. We have little else in common. Therefore, we are asking you to make our request for our own District happen.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service on the Redistricting Commission.

Respectfully,

Cindy Cleghorn
Tujunga, CA 91042