Subject: 1) Dilution of Chicano, Hispanic & Latino (CHL) and African American Voters in the most contentious area in Pasadena’s shameful electoral history

From: Martin Enriquez
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 03:12:55 -0700
To: “we draw the lines” <Martin A. C. EnriquezMarquez
Pasadena, CA 91106

July 9, 2011
Citizens Redistricting Commission
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission:

RE: 1) Dilution of Chicano, Hispanic & Latino (CHL) and African American Voters in the most contentious area in Pasadena’s shameful electoral history
2) Gingles situation

Region IV, Los Angeles County: Pasadena, California
Attention: Connie Galambos Malloy & Jeanne Raya

I have deep reservations about the manner that Pasadena is split in visualizations:

A) 20110708_ad_la_visualization_LASGF and

B) 20110708_ad_la_visualization_LAGBP.

The line drawn in the Northwest corner of Pasadena threatens to open a very old wound that has yet to heal. There are reams of data and written testimony by Pasadena residents given during the redistricting in the early 1990’s. Election records by precincts indicated voter polarization since before 1983 and continuing till
the present.

I am quite familiar with these events. My home was destroyed by the construction of the 210 Freeway. I was baptized a Christian at St. Andrew’s Church and attended a segregated school there: Abraham Lincoln Elementary (destroyed).

You cannot phantom what pain will be inflicted by that gash. I will provide the CRC with factual data at a later time; sufficient to say that many wounded souls will recall the anguish of decades.

In a PDF you will find the full editorial by the Star-News upon the election of Councilmember Isaac Richard which righted a century long circumstances:

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Page A-10 Thursday, April 18, 1991

STAR-NEWS OPINION

The precedent set
Pasadena’s District 1

“And this was all done above-board. As late as July, 1969, a Star-News article about reapportionment of the city board districts could read:

‘(Then City Clerk) Miss (Harriett) Jenkins originally prepare(d) the new Districts so that all bordered on Colorado Boulevard, a so-called vertical reapportionment of the city. Some directors objected to this on the grounds that District 2, represented by (Director Floyd) Gwinn, would have a high a minority population and that there would be a dearth of qualified candidates in it. The clerk then produced the so-called horizontal reapportionment after several tries.’

The italics for emphasis are ours. Well, ours, now. Apparently, 22 years ago, Star-News readers could be informed that minorities were ipso facto unqualified for the city board with nary a raised eyebrow.

Times do change.”

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose:
Note that Colorado Blvd continues to be the line of demarcation amongst all of Pasadena’s peoples. I wish we could see past our differences, but to forget the valiant deeds of so many good people of conscience that makes Pasadena such a great place to live would be unforgivable. True reconciliation means facing the not so pleasant past.

Suggestion:

A simple swap of population between LASGF and LAGBP will not disrupt the Herculean feats that the CRC has accomplished to date.

I am a bit awestruck at your capacity to be so agile. I was pleased that the Pasadena’s Hispanic Corridor along the 210 Freeway has been some what ameliorated. It belongs with rest of the Northwest.

Respectfully,

Martin A. C. EnriquezMarquez
The precedent set

Confident though he said he was during the primary, confident though he may have been during most of the campaign for the general election, Isaac Richard's unprecedented victory in Tuesday's election for the District 1 seat on the Pasadena Board of City Directors seemed stunning even to him late election night at the Pasadena Center.

Plurality in the primary or no, there isn't any question that the election of an African-American candidate who grew up poor in the city's Northwest to represent a council seat that has been held for over 100 years by white men from the district's very tony neighborhoods has to be a stunner.

Of course, this is the first time the election wasn't stacked. Stacked by the then-legal, supposedly proper rules of the day, yes. But making out like bandits under a code of thieves is banditry nonetheless.

"Code of thieves" sounds a bit harsh, perhaps. Some people could and did make flowery arguments about the importance of the old city laws that forced candidates who didn't receive fully 50 percent of the vote in their district into a second city-wide race for all of the voters' approval.

"Gsime is a broader perspective," they said, with a smirk. For none of the several black candidates who received simple majorities over the years within District 1 over did make it to City Hall.

And this was all done above-board. As late as July 27, 1989, a Star-News article about reapportionment of the city board districts could read: "(Then-City Clerk) Miss (Harriet) Jenkins originally prepared the new districts so that all bordered on Colorado Boulevard, a so-called vertical reapportionment of the city. Some directors objected to this on the grounds that a district, represented by (Director Floyd) Ostin, would have a high minority population and that there would be a deficiency of qualified candidates in it. The clerk then produced the so-called horizontal reapportionment after several tries."

The locals for emphasis are ours.
Dear Citizens:

You have cleft in two the Santa Monica Mountains community of Topanga, a community that prides itself on its liberalism and environmentalism. The Northern half of Topanga is then attached to Santa Clarita, 40 miles away. This would be a bad joke if you weren't serious. You have taken a hatchet to Topanga and Malibu and severed most of them from the Westside, only ten miles away, to make up bogus, conservative districts where our voices will count for naught. Not even the worst gerrymandering has accomplished this! Congratulations--and please change everything back so that we can continue to elect representatives who share our collective vision for the Santa Monica Mountains and beyond. Sincerely, Kay Austen
Rancho Palos Verdes has no problems in common with areas north of the Los Angeles airport. Transportation, environment, schooling, crime fighting, civic relations go essentially west from the Palos Verdes - El Segundo line. It makes no sense to have a new redistricting method if the strange shaped district areas are produced instead of compact contiguous areas.

I sincerely hope we will not have to have a state wide initiative to revise the new method and invalidate the results of the present commission.

Rolandf Ilsen
Rancho Palso Verdes
As a California voter, I am requesting that the South Bay be kept together from Marina Del Rey to Palos Verdes Peninsula with straight lines. This issue is being watched very closely and the right thing to do is complete the redistricting as it should logically be done, KEEP SOUTHBAY TOGETHER.
Subject: South Bay
From: "Joe G." <removed>
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 10:56:18 -0700
To: <removed>

Please keep the South Bay together from Marina Del Rey to Palos Verdes Peninsula with straight lines.

Thank you,

Joseph Gazal
Amy Gazal
Subject: redistricting
From: "Louise Meehan" <[redacted]>
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 21:22:51 -0700
To: <[redacted]>

STOP THE POLITICS. keep the South Bay together from Marina Del Rey to Palos Verdes Peninsula with straight lines
Subject: Redistricting
From: "Brett A. Nelson, Sr." [redacted]
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 21:22:22 -0700
To: <redacted>

1. Keep Lancaster and Palmdale united and together.
2. Keep the High Desert communities of Lancaster/Palmdale in northern LA County together with East Kern and the Victor Valley cities in San Bernardino in the same Senate District.
3. The Senate District released in the first draft was excellent, it unified the entire High Desert community of interest together, please keep the Senate District in the first draft.
Subject: Redistricting
From: Gerry Stark <[redacted]>
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 16:19:16 -0700
To: [redacted] <[redacted]>

Please keep the south bay as is, together. Please do not change the lines. Please give us some reason to believe there is still integrity in our politicians. I am losing faith in my leaders very quickly.

Sincerely,
Gerry stark

Sent from my iPad
To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to say that you should keep the South Bay together from Marina Del Rey to Palos Verdes Peninsula with straight lines.

Best Regards,

Michael Malgeri
Redondo Beach, CA
Subject: Redistricting of Lancaster & Palmdale
From: natur lover <natur lover @ email.com>
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 20:22:59 -0700 (PDT)
To: [Redacted] <email.com>

Dear Commission,

I'm writing to you regarding redistricting and to let you know I would like to see you keep the communities of Lancaster and Palmdale represented together. Additionally, since they have the same interests keep Lancaster/Palmdale in northern LA County together with East Kern and the Victor Valley Cities in San Bernardino in the same Senate District.

Please use the first Senate District draft which was quite well drawn out. The other choice doesn't make any sense and is a big mistake.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Tami S. French
Subject: redistricting lines
From: michael mullen <...>
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 17:37:01 -0700 (PDT)
To: [REDACTED]

Keep the southbay district lines from Marina del rey to Palos Verdes straight.
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: Tonya Wieck <t<wieck@example.com>
Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2011 04:25:41 +0000
To: 

From: Tonya Wieck <t<wieck@example.com>
Subject: Antelope Valley District Lines

Message Body:
Dear commission,

In regards to the Senate district lines in the Antelope Valley:

I feel that the first draft that the Senate District released, it unified the entire High Desert community of interest together, please keep the Senate District in the first draft. Lancaster and Palmdale should remain together. Please keep the High Desert communities of Lancaster/Palmdale in northern LA County together with East Kern and the Victor Valley cities in San Bernardino in the same Senate District. Linking us to Pacoima, San Fernando, and Sylmar is not in the best interest of your community.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles

From: James Michael Wieck <jamesmichaelwieck@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2011 04:02:13 +0000
To: citizen_redistricting@yahoo.com

Message Body:
Dear Commission,

Your previous preliminary release of district lines for the Antelope Valley was not perfect in my opinion, but it did make sense. This new idea of linking us in Lancaster with San Fernando, Pacoima, and Sylmar makes no sense at all. I beg you to reconsider this ill conceived plan to re-draw our district lines.

Lancaster and Palmdale should remain together. The High Desert communities of Lancaster/Palmdale should be in northern LA County together with East Kern and the Victor Valley cities in San Bernardino in the same Senate District. The Senate District released in the first draft was excellent, it unified the entire High Desert community of interest together, please keep the Senate District in the first draft.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
The Antelope Valley has proven to be a strong Community of visionaries. With a Population of over 400,000 (outlining areas) we definitely need Elected local voices Speaking on our behalf!
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: "Martin A. C. EnriquezMarquez"
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 10:28:47 +0000
To: "Martin A. C. EnriquezMarquez"

Subject: ) Dilution of Chicano, Hispanic & Latino (CHL) and African American Voters in the most contentious area in Pasadena’s shameful electoral history 2) Gingles situation

Message Body:
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Pasadena, CA 91106

July 9, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Respectfully,

Martin A. C. EnriquezMarquez
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
We believe it is vitally important to keep South Bay districts together from Marina Del Rey to the PV Peninsula. Residents live, work, shop, and play in these districts. We like the idea of patronizing stores owned and operated by fellow residents. We like worshipping in churches where we see our friends from neighboring districts. Schools within a connected set of districts are better matched for sporting events and social programs.

A cohesive community reflects the traditional American spirit. In an emergency, we know we can depend on each other because we have shared values as neighbors.

Please don't split up the South Bay!

Thank you.

Katherine and Karl Poehlmann
Torrance 90504
To the Commission:

Keep the South Bay together from Marina Del Rey to Palos Verdes Peninsula with straight lines.

Thank you,

Theresa Pitiak
Torrance, CA
Please keep the South Bay 36th district in tact from Marina Del Ray to Palos Verdes. This straight line needs to be kept.

Thanks
Thank you for all you are doing on behalf to draw the lines in a fair manner. 
Once again we will ask you to review the testimony from the City Councils of both these cities.

Calabasas and Agoura have more in common with the SFV than they do Beverly Hills, West LA, West Hollywood and Malibu. They have shopping, sports dinner and schools in common, job connections in the West San Fernando Valley not Beverly Hills.

The demographics of the two are different, housing type professions and culture centers and schools are vastly different.

These are the only two Valley communities left connected to the Westside and BH so they will more than likely not see any elected officials and due to the cost of staff and office are not likely to locate constituent services in these two cities. It will take hours to travel to a Legislator's office located on the Westside.

You have heard testimony from the residents of Agoura and Calabasas. You have seated Calabasas in the Assembly map of the West San Fernando Valley Please place these two cities in the West SFV CD also.

These two cities have more in common with Conejo Valley and the SFV than the West side. Again, Sherman Oaks, and Studio City are not communities that have common interests with the West San Fernando Valley. These two cities belong on the East side of the 405.

Again, thank you for including Calabasas in the AD map, we ask you to keep these two cities within the West SFV maps.

Susan Abato
Subject: 36th Congressional District
From: "Walt Stoufer" <walt.stoufer@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2011 16:24:28 -0700
To: <redacted>

Dear Sirs,

I urge you to keep the South Bay together with straight lines that reflect the demographics of the area stretching from Marina Del Rey to Palos Verdes. It's my understanding that in your redrawing of state congressional districts you have essentially left the 36th district where I live with the same gerrymandered convoluted borders which renders the philosophy and convictions of a large percentage of we residents null and void.

Thank You,

Walt Stoufer
Torrance, CA 90503