Subject: Do your Job!
From: "June Pouesi" <*
Date: Tue, 19 Jul 2011 17:50:26 -0700
To: <*

It’s obvious this Commission is being “influenced” where Torrance was taken out of District 36. Put Torrance back into Congressional District 36 and keep Southbay what it is...everything south of Westchester.

Thank you June Pouesi
Subject: El Segundo goes in the South Bay
From: Jeffrey Grotenhuis <[redacted]>
Date: Tue, 19 Jul 2011 18:15:45 -0700
To: [redacted]

You better not mess with our district. In our current environment few have patience for your blatant butchering of our district. At the moment only our eyes are upon you!
Subject: Fairness and Democracy
From: Toby Keeler <[redacted]>
Date: Tue, 19 Jul 2011 19:31:42 -0700
To: <[redacted]>

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS --

ON THE BACK OF EACH OF YOUR COMMISSION BUSINESS CARDS, IT STATES THE GOAL OF THE WE DRAW THE LINES COMMISSION IS TO BE "FAIR" AND "DEMOCRATIC"

THE PROPOSED REDISTRICTING OF THE STATE'S 23RD SENATE DISTRICT IS NEITHER FAIR NOR DEMOCRATIC. FROM THE BEACH AT MALIBU TO KERN COUNTY OVER 100 MILES AWAY. THIS IS BY FAR THE WORST EXAMPLE OF GERRYMANDERING I'VE EVER SEEN ALL MY 66 YEARS.

THE CALABASAS WEBSITE PROUDLY PROCLAIMS

Welcome to the City of Calabasas, the gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in northern Los Angeles County.

LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY. WE DO NOT WISH TO NOW BE THE GATEWAY TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY. REJECT TO BACKROOM SHENANIGANS FROM VICA. DO RIGHT BY THE PEOPLE, NOT SPECIAL INTEREST.

THAT'S YOUR JOB FOR CYING OUT LOUD.

RESPECTFULLY,

TOBY KEELER
A RESIDENT OF CALABASAS,
Subject: FW: [WV-watch] IMPORTANT: California Redistricting Threatens to Split Greater Wilshire Area

From: Lauren Deutsch <lena@lena.de>

Date: Tue, 19 Jul 2011 23:59:27 -0700

To: <lena@lena.de>

I am urging the commission fix our boundaries to maintain the integrity of the long standing boundaries of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council...based on my experience in the various neighborhood battles of the last five years - this is something that actually really matters and will seriously impact our neighborhood.

I live in the Windsor Village area on 90005. It is perfectly clear to me that this large neighborhood has great social and cultural integrity and should not be split into two distinct districts, one East Plymouth and one West Plymouth. The split should be @ Crenshaw which has its own unique demographic.

Thank you.

Lauren W. Deutsch
Property owner

Los Angeles CA 90005
Subject: Letter re New District Lines
From: "Shirley Conte" <shirley_conte@downey.ca.gov>
Date: Tue, 19 Jul 2011 17:40:10 -0700
To: < undisclosed recipient>

Copy attached.

Shirley Conte
Secretary to the City Council
City of Downey

From: undisclosed recipient [mailto: undisclosed recipient]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 2:38 PM
To: Shirley Conte
Subject: Attached Image

3959_001.pdf
July 19, 2011

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

Honorable Members of the Commission:

As elected representatives of the City of Downey, we have been following your proposals for our area with great expectation. When California enacted laws that allowed your commission to take responsibility for drawing the new district lines we were pleased. To know that politics would finally be taken out of the redistricting process was refreshing.

Up until July 14th we were beginning to see true Communities of Interest being formed. Downey and its residents certainly have deep connections with the communities of Cerritos, Bellflower, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, Whittier, La Mirada and Pico Rivera. The congressional map you had drawn PRIOR to the three new Congressional District options you recently published, were a true representation of our community. At a simple glance the map was a whole nugget that took away any appearance of gerrymander drawing and at a closer look, the districts fit with the spirit of Proposition 20.

Then, you suddenly produced very different maps that left us perplexed as to the logic in forming these proposed districts. Downey does not have common interest with cities on the path to Los Angeles. Issues and needs are very different and from a historical perspective, takes us away from Cities we have partnered with in the past for regional issues. Yet all three newly proposed options have cities drawn West towards Los Angeles. At a simple glance, the figures of the three new maps look so elongated and distorted, that it is hard to find how such drastic changes have occurred.

We understand the legal challenges that have been placed upon you in this process and we respect the commission members and all participants for undertaking such important work. Yet, as we observed and participated in the public hearings, it was hard not to also notice the parade of special interest groups advocating for political clout.
Citizens Redistricting Commission
July 19, 2011
Page 2

Our concern is that these political campaigns to form maps under the auspices of rule of law, drown the voices of the communities that will have to live with the burden of being misrepresented in our State and National Capitols.

We urge you, please do not link our city with cities on the path to Los Angeles. Our communities of interest in culture, business, family bonds and demographics are to our South and East. Please consider redrawing your maps to reflect the maps before July 14.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mari A. Guerra
Dn. Mario A. Guerra
Councilman
Dear Commissioners,

My name is Susan B. Haskell and I live in Pacific Palisades. I have written the commission and attended hearings regarding the importance of creating a district that meets the criteria of my community of interest. These communities include Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Malibu, Brentwood, Topanga and both sides of the Santa Monica Mountains. Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village are also an integral part of this community of interest.

Transportation corridors including Pacific Coast Highway, the 405 and 101 freeways are utilized everyday by residents of these communities. In addition, the residents of the coastal and mountain communities share both concerns and services including fire protection, transportation, recreation, natural resources protection, medical centers, educational, cultural, religious and civic institutions with the San Fernando Valley communities of Woodland Hills, West Hills, Tarzana, Encino, Sherman Oaks and Studio City.

The latest visualization maps have altered this community of interest by including Simi Valley, Stevenson Ranch, Santa Clarita, Moorpark and Val Verde, areas north of the 118 Freeway. We have nothing in common with these communities. I do not see how these communities are a part of the Santa Monica Mountains, coastal area and 101 corridor community of interest.

The recent shutdown of the 405 freeway illustrated many of the shared concerns of my community of interest and reinforced the strong interdependency that exists with the communities I've listed, precisely because of these shared concerns. I recognize the challenge of creating districts that meet the criteria set by the redistricting commission and the tremendous effort that you have taken to consider many factors. I believe that the commission can achieve its goal of population numbers in my State Senate District by including the communities in this letter. Please accept my recommendations for the creation of this State Senate District.

Sincerely,
Susan B. Haskell
Subject: Please do not split Wilshire district
From: Eisha Mason
Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 00:03:13 -0400
to: [Redacted]

Dear Commissioners...

Please maintain the integrity of the Wilshire district as you redistrict our communities.

Eisha Mason

Los Angeles, CA.  90005
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: "B. J. Atkins" <b.j.atkins@citizensredistricting.com>
Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 00:03:49 +0000
To: 

From: B. J. Atkins <b.j.atkins@citizensredistricting.com>
Subject: Santa Clarita Valley Senate Seat

Message Body:
On July 9th, the CRC directed Q2 to create a visualization of an East Ventura County to Santa Clarita Valley Senate district. I understand this is the THIRD TIME the CRC has made this request. However, the visualizations created by Q2 divide Santa Clarita Valley into two Senate seats, against the community of interest testimony and the request of the CRC.

Please follow the pervasive community of interest testimony and, once again, direct Q2 to present the Commission an East Ventura County to Santa Clarita Valley Senate district which keeps the SCV whole!

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: edward j pierce <reddacted>
Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 00:24:00 +0000
To: reddacted

Message Body:
we want fair representation for our district as a voting community of district 35

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

From: Darlene Canister <darlene.canister@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 00:29:23 +0000

To: [Redacted]

From: Darlene Canister <darlene.canister@gmail.com>

Subject: Fair Representation

Message Body:
I Live in South Los Angeles, and would like fair representation for my district. The 35th District. I live and work in the area. I, have family and friends in Hawthorne, Lawndale, Inglewood, and Gardena. I believe that we need fair representation for our district. Thank you.

Darlene Canister

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Keep the LA VA in our district

Message Body:
My Father was a WWII veteran. PLEASE Keep the VA in our district, i.e., Brentwood Glen, West LA, Westwood. We have worked diligently with them to improve, maintain and protect the contiguous land and its use. We LOVE our Veterans!!
Our programs and governance are done within our zip code area, 90049, to strengthen our input as a community.
Splitting the VA from our district would be harmful to our children and seniors, our veterans, who mutually benefit from interaction, history, supporting the VA gardens and Farmers' Market.
Thank you!!!

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: keith radack <keith.radack@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 02:07:00 +0000
To:  

From: keith radack <keith.radack@gmail.com>
Subject: keeping the VA in our district

Message Body:
Keeping the VA in our district....Brentwood, los Angeles, is relevant on many levels and especially since it is our immediate neighbor (flush up against our "Brentwood Glen" community) and many issues with the VA directly impact our community. Thanks for appreciating this....KR

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: keith radack <censored>
Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 02:07:00 +0000
To: censored

From: keith radack <censored>
Subject: keeping the VA in our district

Message Body:
Keeping the VA in our district....Brentwood, los Angeles, is relevant on many levels and especially since it is our immediate neighbor (flush up against our "Brentwood Glen" community) and many issues with the VA directly impact our community. Thanks for appreciating this....KR

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
I oppose the new redistricting plan change for Malibu, Las Virgines area. Thank you.
There are two things that I think are important in the redistricting project. First, the community of Brentwood, as defined by our community council should remain intact in the redistricting. Second, equally important, the Veterans Administration should be included in that district.

The community of Brentwood is a community with common goals, so it should remain intact.

Also, The VA, located within our community, has historically been part of our community. We should be together. We share common goals and concerns. We have done so in the past, and we will in the future.

Please, keep Brentwood together.

And keep the VA and the concerns of the vets with us as part of our neighborhood.

Chris Bloom

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Message Body:
Thank you for restoring the communities of Santa Monica and Malibu to a single district for the State Assembly and the State Senate. Our two cities share a school district so clearly our children are best served by inclusion in a single district.

Also, as the communities bordering the beautiful Pacific Ocean and Santa Monica Mountains, it is important to respect the geography of the area when drawing the lines. Please represent my objection to the Congress LA option 1.2 map as it takes a slice out of the Santa Monica bay, separating the Beach Cities into different districts.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: Diana Mahmud <diamahmud@caltech.edu>
Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 05:51:13 +0000
To: Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: South Pasadena representation

Message Body:
As a resident of South Pasadena, I wish to express my strong support for the Commission's July 8 visualization maps wherein South Pasadena receives representation with other similarly like-minded communities. Thank you for remembering our long-standing opposition to 710 expansion and for keeping our community whole, and not split as in prior AD maps, and not linked with communities with whom we have no historic or logical tie, as was the case in the original CD assignment. I hope any further changes that are considered keep the above-referenced concerns in mind.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: vahid khorsand <vahidkhorsand@gmail.com>
To: vahid khorsand <vahidkhorsand@gmail.com>
Subject: CA Senate

Message Body:
For the San Fernando Valley, can't here be 1 senate district covering most of the west valley, with Mullholland as the border on the south, 405 on the east, the Ventura County, Simi Valley, as the border on the west, the 405/5 juncture and Santa Susana Mountains as the border on the north?
That would seem to make the most sense when that area has predominately the same priorities, while being diverse along race, sex, education and income.
I don't think I have more in common with the folks in the Santa Clarita Valley or the folks east of the 405.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Message Body:
Dear Sir/Madam:
Please consider keeping Brentwood (90049) in one district. Doing so would permit Brentwood to be represented by one person. Being represented by one person would help us improve, maintain, and protect the Veteran Administration's contiguous land and its use. The VA is my immediate neighbor on both the South and West of Brentwood Glen and many issues with the VA impact the Brentwood Glen. Having one representative would help us champion our causes. Furthermore, the Brentwood community's programs and governance would remain intact and strong when it remains in the same district. Please strongly consider keeping Brentwood in one district.

Sincerely,
Van Anh Dastur

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: City of Hawthorne Redistricting - Resolution 7391 in support of Hawthorne to be part of the Southbay Districts

From: Raymond Wan
Date: Tue, 19 Jul 2011 23:27:21 -0700
To: 
CC: Avargas@cityofhawthorne.org

I am writing in reference to resolution 7391. I am FOR the resolution of including Hawthorne into the South Bay Congressional, Assembly, and State Senate District. My wife and I attended the hearing at the Hawthorne City Hall on July 19, 2011 and have voiced our concerns to Mayor, Larry Guidi and Mayor Pro Tem, Alex Vargas and the rest of the City Council. We feel Hawthorne needs to be part of the South Bay because of the following reasons:

1.) Hawthorne's neighboring cities include Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and El Segundo. A lot of the city services are shared with these neighboring cities
2.) Hawthorne is otherwise known as "Gateway to the South Bay"
3.) Hawthorne has shown tremendous growth in the past 5 years and to be not associated with the South Bay would be consider a huge step back for the city. I have listed a few examples showing the growth of Hawthorne

- Housing Development Fusion
- Housing Development 360
- The company of Space X is located in Hawthorne and highly regarding as the next NASA for the US
- A good population of Hawthorne residence work in the aerospace industry within the neighboring cities noted above
- Many of my neighbors live in Hawthorne because of the proximity to the beach and because of our association with the other beach cities. To move Hawthorne out of this district would severely depreciate property values.

4.) On a personal front, my wife and I moved to Hawthorne from Westwood because we wanted to live in the South Bay but could not afford to live in the neighboring cities. We thought it was a good compromise for us to live adjacent to the beach cities so that our future kids can grow up experiencing the California beach life style. Despite working out in Calabasas which is 40 miles away one way (80 miles round trip) from Hawthorne, I still wanted to live in Hawthorne. I endured 7 years of commuting to Calabasas with a round trip commute of 80 miles just so that I can live in the South Bay. South Bay is our home.

Sincerely,

Raymond Wan
Redistricting Commission,

We have just learned that you have determined to remove Torrance from the 36th District. YOU NEED TO PUT IT BACK!!! Torrance is a very important part of the South Bay! You would have Torrance as a part of another district with someone representing us that is not part of our community!! Shame on you!! It seems that gerrymandering is taking place once again!!! These are the cities comprising the South Bay and they should make up the 36th District: Torrance, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, San Pedro, Hawthorne, Gardena and Westchester. DO NOT SEPARATE TORRANCE FROM THE 36TH DISTRICT!!

Tom and Arlene Dubas

Torrance, CA 90503
July 19, 2011

State Redistricting Commission via email: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

RE: EVENT – State Senate District

Honorable Commissioners:

Although I made the semi-final cut, I did not make the final round to be considered for the most difficult and important task you have undertaken. Please allow me to give you some feedback regarding the referenced EVENT district.

I have lived in a small canyon between the City of Santa Monica and the Pacific Palisades for nearly 40 years. I am President of our canyon civic association, a member of the PCH Task Force [covers coast highway from Santa Monica Pier to Ventura County line], and was elected by the Pacific Palisades Community as the At-Large Representative on the Pacific Palisades Community Council. As a grad student I did research and support for the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission created by the state to create a park in the iconic Santa Monica Mountains.

Raising three children and participating in the civic and community life of this locale gives me an excellent perspective of the community of interest I, and my neighbors, share. It includes the Cities of Santa Monica and Malibu, Brentwood including the Veteran’s Administration facilities, Pacific Palisades, Topanga and, of course, both sides of the Santa Monica Mountains. Three major highways define this community: PCH, I-405 and SR-101. In addition, cross-mountain roads provide access for both our residents, commuters and the many people who come to visit the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Santa Monica Bay. The City of Malibu is part of a Council of Governments with Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village. These five cities and Topanga have a strong interest in staying together in order to address transportation, fire protection, and resource protection issues that impact the coastal communities and Santa Monica Bay. The unincorporated areas of Ventura County along the coast as well as Thousand Oaks would add strength to these goals. The 101 Corridor communities in the SF Valley include Woodland Hills, West Hills, Tarzana, Encino, Sherman Oaks and Studio City. I understand that additional parts of the Valley and Westside may need to be added to this district to achieve the required population. All these cities and
communities serve as gateways to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and our beaches. I know that many locally elected officials and residents, homeowner and neighborhood council leaders have testified at your hearings and sent in letters in support of this united community of interest. I am gratified for the strong support of our County Supervisor who represents this area in LA County, Zev Yaroslavsky.

Unfortunately, several of the most recent maps on the Commission’s website would create an unrealistic “community of interest.” Please exclude areas North of the 118 Freeway. Simi Valley, Moorpark, Santa Clarita, Stevenson Ranch, Val Verde and other communities are separate geographic areas and share little in common with this Santa Monica Mountains, 101 corridor and coastal district. We do not share the same roads, schools, religious institutions, County Supervisors, or cultural or civic organizations.

It is vital to recognize that these are two distinct areas which should be kept in separate districts so that separate elected officials can focus on their unique interests.

Sincerely,

George Wolfberg
Keep Torrance in the 36th district!!!! We need to stay just like it has been for years. Leave us the way we are suppose to be.

Thanks
Andrea Thatcher
To whom it may concern:

I have heard about the proposed redistricting of the 36th Congressional District. The 36th Congressional District should be the South Bay only: El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Lomita, Palos Verdes, Hawthorne, and Gardena.

It does not make sense to potentially add a strip of land to District 36 that stretches along Dockweiler Beach, Venice, Santa Monica, Malibu, Bel Air, and Beverly Hills. The communities of the South Bay listed above have common concerns and economic activity. I would not send my child up to Bel Air for school and a Bel Air resident would not come to shop in the South Bay.

Keep districts local so that they accurately represent their residents, and keep politics out of it.

Sincerely,
James Draths
Dear Sirs:

I understand that you will be, once again, redistricting the 36th Congressional District. This whole gerrymandering thing is very disappointing. To redraw the boundaries of the district in order to make it either Republican or Democrat is so unfair. It is against the whole spirit of districts. The South Bay should be its own district, where we all have common interests and problems. Torrance for sure should be considered a part of the district. What does Malibu, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, and Calabasas have to do with us, here in the South Bay. Lifestyles are completely different.

I believe that you should redraw the boundaries of the 36th district to include the South Bay from Westchester down to the Peninsula and over to Hawthorne and Gardena.

Please reconsider.

Sincerely,
Robyn Rudell
Redondo Beach
Community July 18, 2011
California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Commissioners:
The Monte Nido Valley Community Association, representing approximately 375 households in the Santa Monica Mountains, wishes to go on record supporting the position of the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation regarding the updated redistricting maps of the State assembly and US congressional districts.
However, we are strongly opposed to the Senate district lines of EVENT on the latest visualization map. Despite repeated complaints from communities of interest in both the south (Santa Monica Mountains/Coastal), and north (Santa Clarita), the Redistricting Commission is still combining these two completely unrelated areas. To compound this gross error, you have just added the Ventura County communities of Simi Valley and Moorpark to EVENT. Your mandate: “When voters with similar interests are drawn into a district, their voices multiply giving them greater opportunity to express their views, elect candidates and hold leaders accountable” is negated by this latest Senate map. You leave us isolated and with a greatly diminished voice.

The current District is built around the backbone of the Santa Monica Mountains and coastal communities which serve millions of annual visitors. This area must not be fragmented nor left without an effective voice.

It is critical that the Senate district lines of EVENT be redrawn to reflect the east/west communities of interest that have served us well and not this north/south orientation.
Sincerely,
Les Hardie, President
Monte Nido Valley Association
July 19, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to our attention that The Redistricting Commission has been planning to draw up NEW congressional and state legislative district boundaries for the upcoming 2012 election. Instead of keeping the 36th District in the South Bay area, we understand that the commission will be back to fixing the district lines to favor politicians and special interest groups and not the voters. If the proposed new boundaries include

- Removing Torrance from the district
- Encompassing San Pedro, Palos Verdes Peninsula and the Beach Cities
- And creating a narrow string on Dockweiler Beach, Venice, Santa Monica, Malibu, Bel Air and all the way to Beverly Hills, Topanga, Calabasas and parts of L.A.

then our household is strongly opposed to this gerrymandering and want a district with commonality.

The current proposal to create a beach district and divide the South Bay is unacceptable to members of this community. Put Torrance back in the 36th Congressional District (and Assembly District) and designate that the South Bay should be Westchester south only.

Sincerely,

The Langle Family
Members of the Commission:

I understand that the following changes are being considered in redrawing the 36th Congressional District located in the South Bay. First, the city of Torrance has been removed. Second, a narrow string of land including Dockweiler Beach, Venice, Santa Monica, Malibu, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Topange, Calabassas, and parts of Los Angeles city have been included. This is a violation of your oath to draw fair lines when redistricting electoral districts and is not in accordance with the Voting Rights Act.

El Segundo Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach Torrance, Lomita, all of the Palos Verdes peninsula, San Pedro, Lawndale, and Hawthorne should all be included in the same Congressional District. Lines for the State Assembly district and State Senate Districts should follow similar paths.

Thank you again
Valerie Mucha, Rancho Palos Verdes
To the member of the redistricting committee,

I would like to urge you to keep Torrance in the 36th district and also to keep the southern portion of Westchester in the 36th as well. We have always been one community and we would prefer to keep it that way. Thank you for listening.

Your constituent in Torrance,

Ron and Rica Chan
Torrance, CA 90503