To Whom It May Concern,

I am an active member of the South Los Angeles community. The majority of our community are Black and Latino residents, and I believe that in any sector of our government, our representatives should reflect our community. By dividing the 33rd, 35th and 37th Congressional Districts, you, the CRC, are threatening African American political power in our community. As a citizen and an active person in my community, I will not accept that. Our community needs to have a voice in this process; it is far too common that we are not involved in the things that affect us the most, which creates frustration, anger, and misunderstanding. As a citizen, I do not accept and do not believe their needs to be a reduction in African American political participation at any level. I will not go for it. Please take what I have said into consideration when making your decisions. The small decisions that you make now, can have a tremendous affects on our communities forever.

Thank You,

Elisha Whitman

--

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.”

— Alice Walker
As a business representative located in Los Angeles County with satellite offices throughout the region I think it's important for the Board 4 seat to remain in Los Angeles County. The population and culture of LA is different from Orange County and splitting up the district between counties will have an adverse effect in my opinion on the business community as well as the residents. Thank you for your consideration.
To Whom it May Concern:

Attached please find a letter to the Citizens Redistricting Commission from Los Angeles County Assessor John Noguez. The letter relates to the Commission’s most recent plan with respect to the Board of Equalization 4th District. If I may answer any questions regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,
Chris Carlos, Ed.D.
Special Assistant
July 22, 2011

Chairman Libert “Gil” R. Ontai
Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Ontai:

I write to encourage the Citizens Redistricting Commission to reconsider its current plan with respect to the Board of Equalization 4th District. The most recent version of the redistricting map related to the Board of Equalization (7/18/2011) shows Los Angeles County being divided in half from east to west, effectively bifurcating the City of Los Angeles into separate districts.

In as much as the Voting Rights Act requires, “Districts must respect the boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of Interest, and minimize their division, to the extent possible,” I urge the Commission to maintain the entirety of the City of Los Angeles in the Board of Equalization 4th District.

I understand the challenges faced by the Citizens Redistricting Commission and applaud your efforts to craft redistricting designs that are as fair and equitable as possible to the various constituencies affected by these plans. If I may be of any assistance to you in this process please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted]

Sincerely,

John R. Noguez
Assessor
Los Angeles County

cc: Commissioners (13)
I really believe that redistricting should take into account communities of interest, and not divide already disenfranchised communities. Please don't make a mistake that will disenfranchise us for ten more years.

--

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams, his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream. His wings are clipped and his feet are tied so he opens his throat to sing. The caged bird sings with a fearful trill, of things unknown but longed for still. And his tune is heard on the distant hill, For the caged bird sings of freedom. -- Maya Angelou, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'
Don't divide my community!
Cheryl Branch
90011 and
90047 and
90037 and
90002
Subject: Protect South LA - Don't Divide my Community
From: Jean Gilmore <[redacted]>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 11:12:43 -0700 (PDT)
To: [redacted]

Keep your hands off!
Subject: Protect South LA - Don't Divide my Community
From: Brian Wright <[redacted]>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 18:25:23 +0000
To: [redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Brian and I am a Los Angeles County resident. I would like you to reconsider your political activism which is driving you to make decisions that take away representation and rights from other residents. In particular, this redistricting is not a fair plan and will leave already underrepresented residents of the county in a situation where they will never be heard.

Please reconsider your redistricting decision as the grassroots will not stand for this bad decision making while you are in office.

Many thanks, Brian

Brian Wright
Director, Talent Acquisition
Fox Group
@ Fox Studios in Century City, CA
office: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]

Follow our groups [social media icons]
Subject: Protect South LA - Don't Divide my Community

From: Regina Freer

Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 10:44:16 -0700

To:

Honorable Commissioners-
I am writing today to urge you to act responsibly to preserve fair and just representation for the African American community in Los Angeles, and in my area in particular. I was born in the Leimert Park area of Los Angeles and reside there today in the 33rd Congressional district, the 26th State Assembly district, and the 47th State Assembly district.

I am a professor of political science at Occidental College who studies race and representational democracy, so the threat and consequences of losing hard fought electoral gains are something I understand at a deep level. Communities of interest matter in a representative democracy and especially so when such communities experience disproportionately high levels of unemployment, underemployment, incarceration, disinvestment, premature death, disease, etc. But equally important is the ability to mobilize citizens to participate in the political process through voting rights and the ability to elect those who best represent their interests.

Leimert Park is by most accounts the cultural hub of Black Los Angeles. Its rich history and current day economic, social, and political activism must not be diminished by a redistricting process that ignores the significance of communities of interest.

I will not accept a reduction in political representation at any level. The Voting Rights Act must be adhered to and thus voting rights for African Americans in my community and beyond must not be diminished. Likewise, political power and representation must be preserved at current levels.

I appreciate you efforts to craft a fair and balanced set of district lines and thank you in advance for seriously considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Regina Freer
Subject: Protect South LA - Don't Divide my Community
From: Loan Audits <[redacted]>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 10:28:08 -0700
To: [redacted]

Dear "Representative?"

That's what your title is supposed to be. But political moves to eviscerate representation of communities of color are the rewards of few, devastation to many.

It's the communities of color that suffered the initial stabs of the housing crisis (when the rest of the country blamed them and not the entities that created the crisis) and continue to feel the pain more acutely than the rest of the population. These are the canaries in the coal mines of the country, yet ignored, or worse - blamed for the actions of the few.

This will get even worse if representation is skewed to the point that communities of color don't get representation that looks out for their interests.

Please do not gut our communities of their political power.

Lisa Henschel
Subject: Protect South LA - Don't Divide my Community
From: Justyn Christian
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 10:22:27 -0700
To: 

Keep our districts representative of the communities living within them.
VIA FACSIMILE AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 22, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
901 P Street, Suite 154-A  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-5711

EVENT Senate District: Include Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, and Brentwood to fully include the Santa Monica Mnts Community of Interest

Dear Commissioners:

On June 27th we wrote to you asking that the Santa Monica Mountains community of interest not be fragmented. We are pleased to observe that in the most recent visualization of the EVENT district most of the Santa Monica Mountains is contained in one Senate district.

However, and most critically, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, and Brentwood need to be included in the EVENT district as well.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a joint powers local park agency that administers 60,000 acres of open space and parklands in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. As presently configured the majority of our parklands would be included in the EVENT district, but the parks that generate the most citizen concern would be excluded from this district. Specifically the MRCA manages Ramirez Canyon Park, Coastal Slope Trail, Escondido Canyon, Corral Canyon Park, Temescal Gateway Park, Westridge-Canyonback Open Space, and San Vicente Mountain Park that would be separated from the community of interest that would otherwise militate for inclusion of all of these areas within the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains, i.e., within the EVENT district.

These parks really are the “front line” public access points most accessible, and yet, by the same token, most impactful on local communities. These are state issues that relate best to the Santa Monica Mountains as a whole and should not be carved-out in a district that primarily relates to the South Bay and Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Sincerely,

Rorie A. Skei  
Chief Deputy Executive Officer

A local park agency exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District pursuant to Section 6500 et seq. of the Government Code
To submit a public comment to the commission, call us toll free at [REDACTED] or send us an e-mail directly to cynthia.kolodyny@citizensredistricting.com or by using the form below.

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission is eager to accept your supplemental attachments. The following file formats are supported: .pdf and .jpg. Files not submitted in this format will not be posted on the Public Comments page.

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-6711

Your Name (required)
Cynthia Kolodyny

Your Email (required)

Region and county this comment pertains to (required):
4 - Los Angeles

Subject
redistricting and the VA

Your Message
Please keep our district contiguous including all of Brentwood, NOrth and South, to the ocean. If possible it would be good to keep UCLA and Westwood with us.

Please keep the VA property in Brentwood as the VA hospital is half in Brentwood and the other half south of Miralee.

We have many Brentwood residents that

Send
Office of the Mayor

July 14, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P St., Ste. 154A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This statement is submitted in connection with the Commission’s determination of final district boundaries for the Assembly District that has until now included Pasadena, Altadena and South Pasadena. Thank you for this opportunity to present views on this important element of your historic work.

I am the Mayor of Pasadena, having recently begun a fourth 4-year term as Pasadena’s first directly elected Mayor. The past 12 years have provided an opportunity for me to experience the operation of local government and to pursue the important relationship between a city and its elected representatives at other levels of government.

The Commission’s current tentative boundaries for this Assembly District recognize the close ethnic, social, economic, educational, and cultural ties that bind these three communities. This approach appears to me to be optimal for our area, having in mind the goal of redistricting to strengthen the democratic process. I urge that this configuration be retained in the final determination, even if this requires grouping these three communities with other towns along the San Gabriel Foothills to the east.

As you consider options, please continue to recognize, as does the tentative configuration, the importance and the benefits of keeping the three communities together. The Commission has difficult choices to make, but I am convinced that the current proposal not only complies with redistricting guidelines, but protects public interests in the region.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my views, and for your hard work in this effort.

Sincerely,

BILL BOGAARD
Mayor

BB:jls
Subject: Communities State Redistricting Proposal

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to request that the following communities be included in the same district:

Kagel Canyon - Lake View Terrace - Shadow Hills - La Tuna Canyon - Sunland-Tujunga - La Crescenta - Montrose - La Canada-Flintridge - Glendale - Burbank

Our communities share the same demographics and interests which include, but are not limited to:


The current boundary proposal has my community joined with the mid-Valley flatland area, an area my community has little in common with. It is important that the redistricting proposal be redrawn so that my community is joined with other communities that share our demographics and interests:

Kagel Canyon - Rural, Equestrian, Mountains; Lake View Terrace - Rural, Equestrian, Mountains and Hansen Dam Recreation Center; Shadow Hills - Rural, Equestrian, Mountains; La Tuna Canyon - Verdugo Hills, Rural, Equestrian; Sunland-Tujunga, La Crescenta, Montrose, La Canada-Flintridge - Rural, Equestrian, Suburban, Located Between Two Mountain Ranges (Verdugo Mountains and San Gabriel Mountains); Glendale and Burbank - Rural, Suburban and share the Verdugo Mountains, Shopping and Business

These communities have commonalities and interrelationships that are uniquely interwoven and linked in ways that make them indivisible and requires they be joined together in the same California State Voting District.

I respectfully request that you consider these long-established community relationships when redrawing the current districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Print Name]

Street

Shadow Hills, Ca. 91006

City and Zip Code

Phone
July 12, 2011

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

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

I am the President and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL). Headquartered in South Los Angeles and with offices throughout urban LA, over the past 90 years LAUL has become one of the largest and most venerable institutions in the African American community. Today we serve more than 125,000 of the region’s most underserved residents each year.

Reviewing your recent maps, I must inform you that I am extremely concerned. The maps unnecessarily divide our community, splitting up traditional neighborhoods between several districts. This is simply incongruent with the urgent needs of our constituents and with your own mission. And it places yet another undue stress on an already over-extended community.

Also, you have unnecessarily combined communities that could not be more distinct and different. By inexplicably moving against the submissions and recommendations of the African American Redistricting Coalition and the Unity Map (which was submitted by the leading African American, Latino and Asian organizations representing our respective communities) and by unreasonably shifting and expanding boundaries, the proposed maps will be simply disastrous for our communities – making it nearly impossible in some instances for residents to even reasonably participate in community meetings (given the geographic boundaries), and impeding the fundamental elements of building healthy, functioning communities.

With the full weight of the Los Angeles Urban League and our Board of Directors, I am asking you to immediately reconsider and to respect the traditional boundaries of South Los Angeles and our historic communities. Traditionally our communities in South LA have included areas between Central Avenue and La Cienega, between Olympic and the 105 Freeway. We request that you do not put these neighborhoods in districts with vastly different interests, histories and living conditions.

You have my thanks in advance for your careful reconsideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Blair H. Taylor  
President & CEO
Dear Commission Members:

Please redraw Arcadia to be included with the common “communities of interest” in the San Gabriel Foothill Mountains (LASGF). The way the lines are currently drawn, Arcadia is not joined by her neighboring cities (especially Sierra Madre and Monrovia). Instead, Arcadia is being divided and forced to join other cities with which we have nothing in common. This is wrong.

- Arcadia shares a common interest with other foothill communities with east-west transportation on the 210 Foothill freeway, public traffic roads, and the construction of the Gold Line Foothill Extension
- Arcadia has intercity contracts and agreements with other foothill communities for law enforcement, fire protection, medical services, and upper watershed management & conservation
- City/State Arcadia has an entirely different socio-economic base, environmental issues, quality of living standards, and contributions to local “communities of interest” than the cities farther south.
- Arcadia’s unity and strength is in knowing that it is a major foothill neighbor with ties to local cities that share mutual support and co-dependence of the equal flow of resources and employment in the northern vicinity.
- Arcadia is already known for its largely diverse population of ethnic groups which well-meets the Voting Rights Act standards.

For the above reasons and more, please redraw Arcadia to be included in the San Gabriel Foothill Mountain area (LASGF) in the assembly, senate, and congressional districts.

We moved to Arcadia in 1969, and we like Arcadia just the way it is. We do not wish to see any changes in the way our district has been represented!!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ralph L. Bicker

Name—Ralph L. Bicker

Address—Arcadia, CA 91006
California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX: 1-916-322-0904
E-mail: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

DATE:

Dear Commission Members:

Please redraw Arcadia to be included with the common “communities of interest” in the San Gabriel Foothill Mountains (LASGF). The way the lines are currently drawn, Arcadia is not joined by her neighboring cities (especially Sierra Madre and Monrovia). Instead, Arcadia is being divided and forced to join other cities with which we have nothing in common. This is wrong.

- Arcadia shares a common interest with other foothill communities with east–west transportation on the 210 Foothill freeway, public traffic roads, and the construction of the Gold Line Foothill Extension
- Arcadia has intercity contracts and agreements with other foothill communities for law enforcement, fire protection, medical services, and upper watershed management & conservation
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For the above reasons and more, please redraw Arcadia to be included in the San Gabriel Foothill Mountain area (LASGF) in the assembly, senate, and congressional districts.

We moved to Arcadia in 1969, and we like Arcadia just the way it is. We do not wish to see any changes in the way our district has been represented!!

Thank you.

Sincerely, 

Donna L. Bicker

Name – Donna L. Bicker

Address: Arcadia, CA 91006
KEEP VALLEY VILLAGE CALIFORNIA TOGETHER

The current draft of the map divides the 25,000 persons in Valley Village California into two congressional districts. **WE OPPOSE THE MAP AS PRESENTED BECAUSE IT DIVIDES OUR VALLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY INTO TWO DIFFERENT DISTRICTS.**

IF YOU MOVE THE BOUNDARY LINE TO THE 170 FREEWAY, IT TRACKS ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF VALLEY VILLAGE AND ALL OF OUR STAKEHOLDERS WILL BE IN ONE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

PLEASE MOVE THE BOUNDARY EAST TO THE 170 FREEWAY

WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU REDRAW THE SOUTHEAST BOUNDARY OF THIS DISTRICT TO KEEP VALLEY VILLAGE IN ONE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

---

*Denotes Current Boundaries* of Valley Village

*Mark Stepanian, Resident of Valley Village*
July 22, 2011

To: The California Citizens Redistricting Commission

From: Dana Landis
Valley Village, CA 91607

SUBJECT: PLEASE CHANGE THE LATEST CONGRESSIONAL MAP BOUNDARY WHICH DIVIDES THE COMMUNITY OF VALLEY VILLAGE CALIFORNIA.

COMMENT: I live in Valley Village, located in Los Angeles, California. I am very concerned that the new map proposed earlier this week will divide Valley Village into two parts. Please redraw the line so that it follows the 170 Freeway and keeps the 25,000 stakeholders in Valley Village in one congressional district.

Sincerely,

Dana Landis
KEEP VALLEY VILLAGE CALIFORNIA TOGETHER

The current draft of the map divides the 25,000 persons in Valley Village California into two congressional districts. **WE OPPOSE THE MAP AS PRESENTED BECAUSE IT DIVIDES OUR VALLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY INTO TWO DIFFERENT DISTRICTS.**

IF YOU MOVE THE BOUNDARY LINE TO THE 170 FREEWAY, IT TRACKS ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF VALLEY VILLAGE AND ALL OF OUR STAKEHOLDERS WILL BE IN ONE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

PLEASE MOVE THE BOUNDARY EAST TO THE 170 FREEWAY

WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU REDRAW THE SOUTHEAST BOUNDARY OF THIS DISTRICT TO KEEP VALLEY VILLAGE IN ONE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

---

**- - -** DENOTES CURRENT BOUNDARIES OF VALLEY VILLAGE
Subject: Protect South LA - Don't Divide my Community
From: Gerardo Lavina <[removed]>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 10:21:48 -0700
To: [removed] <[removed]>

Do not divide the district!

Sent from my iPhone
I am a resident of Westchester - 90045.

I do not want our Westchester/Playa Del Rey community to be split up.

We share commonalities in this community with our neighbors to the West and the South that do not and WILL NEVER exist with the communities to our East including Inglewood.

Lumping us with the communities of East makes no sense.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Disapproval with reducing LA's political representation for African Americans

Message Body:
I live in Compton and see that the CRC has attempted reduce the political representation of African Americans by creating Districts in which they are no longer majority. Reducing the representation of African Americans goes against the core of the goal of equal representation, that is a mandate of the CRC. Reconsider the maps taking into consideration that the changing demographics of Los Angeles do not mandate that you obliterate African American representation.

Sincerely,
Deanna Cooke

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: Jennifer Gregg <jen.gregg@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 16:58:23 +0000
To: 

From: Jennifer Gregg <jen.gregg@gmail.com>
Subject: El Segundo rezoning

Message Body:
You must keep El Segundo as part of the beach cities! It has been a South Bay staple since forever. It is very much a part of the beach cities and should remain as such. I fear that, amongst many other reasons, land value will go down if bunched up with the inland communities. Right now home value remains somewhat comparable with the surrounding beach cities. Also, I am an emergency room nurse, mobile intensive care nurse, and this would change destination of emergency medical services and possibly even cost someone their life if they can not get the emergent care they need. Thank you.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: Nancy Jabbra <nancy.jabbra@<redacted>>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 08:13:52 +0000
To: 

From: Nancy Jabbra <nancy.jabbra@<redacted>>
Subject: proposed beach cities district

Message Body:
This proposed district stretches from Santa Monica to Redondo Beach. Except for parts of Venice, it is nearly all white. In effect, it will disenfranchise voters of color. This is not what the CRC should be doing.

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

From: Ricardo Mendoza <ricardo.mendoza@citizen.redistricting.com>

Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 07:43:13 +0000

To: 

From: Ricardo Mendoza <ricardo.mendoza@citizen.redistricting.com>
Subject: Congressional District - Southeast Communities

Message Body:
Hello,

I am pleased to see that the Southeast Communities have been conserved and kept whole in the recent version of the visualizations for the Congressional District. I am believe that South Los Angeles, the portion added to this segment makes complete sense as these communities interact frequently with one another. I would however would like to see Downtown Los Angeles added back into this district. By adding Downtown Los Angeles you further connect the representation at the State, Local and Federal level to include the same communities. Downtown Los Angeles and South Los Angeles have traditionally been represented at the local level by the same representative. The addition of Downtown to the same district provides added benefit to a community that has traditionally been low in resources and access to resources from the downtown area. I urge you to reconsider adding downtown to the South Los Angeles and South East Cities District. Adding this section and removing Paramount will ! also provide the district the added diversity it needs.

Ricardo

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles
From: c bryant <c.bryant@example.com>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 17:19:42 +0000
To: citizensredistricting.com

Message Body:
I live in the 33rd Congressional District (Rep. Karen Bass) and will not accept a reduction or dismantling of one of the most diverse districts in the state.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: EVENT Senate District Changes

Message Body:
Dear Commissioners,

Please include the SCV and less of the southern San Fernando Valley in the EVENT District.

This is easily achieved by swapping out Reseda (60,000 people) in EVENT and placing it in LASFE. Reseda is a majority Hispanic community and should be put into a district that has a 59% Latino population according to your latest draft map.

From there you can remove Granada Hills (60,000 people) from the LASFE and put it into the LAAVV. Granada Hills is currently in a senate district with Antelope Valley.

To make up the loss of population from the EVENT, move all of Castaic, Valencia, Newhall, and Saugus from LAAVV into EVENT. This should constitute an equal population swap between the three districts.

There has been plenty of COI testimony in support of SCV being linked with East Ventura County. We have been in the same Senate District for three decades.

Thank you for your consideration.

Teri Knafla
Valencia

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
This proposed district stretches from Santa Monica to Redondo Beach. Except for parts of Venice, it is nearly all white. In effect, it will disenfranchise voters of color. This is not what the CRC should be doing.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Dividing Downtown LA

From: Maggie Duenas

Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 17:59:09 +0000

To: Maggie Duenas

Message Body:

Dear California Redistricting Commission,

I write to express concern for the inconsistent map drawing of Downtown Los Angeles. In Assembly and Congressional visualizations Downtown Los Angeles appears to be kept more or less whole, however, State Senate Visualization splits the core of Downtown Los Angeles in two.

Business and Art's Districts and new residential groups are split in two making government more accessible and less confusing. Drawing the lines at Broadway and 2nd street is ridiculous. It follows little reason for divide especially when a real geographic boundaries exist less than a few BLOCKS away. What drives your map drawers to move LA Live, the Jewelry District, the Fashion District and the Arts District away from Downtown City Hall and Police Headquarters and stick it with Culver City and the City of Inglewood.

Please be consistent. The natural boundaries of Downtown Los Angeles are 10 Freeway, the Los Angeles River (from East LA to Elysian Park), the 110 Freeway. All of Downtown LA should be in a districts that are fully contained in the City of Los Angeles.

With close to 40,000 permanent residents, an over 200,000 daytime population and a growing night and weekend art/entertainment/recreation effort, Downtown Los Angeles requires large scale coordination and cooperation that is best achieved from it existing wholly in State and Federal Districts especially with the current debate about a new downtown stadium. Would a Senator from Inglewood best represent a stadium/Sports Entertainment effort in Downtown Los Angeles, when a competing facility exists in their other City???

I urge the commission to help support the continued revitalization of Downtown Los Angeles by keeping it together.

Thank you for your time.

Maggie Duenas
Residing and Employed in Downtown Los Angeles
(both in separate Senate districts separated by 5 Blocks!)

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: governmental districting lines being reassessed
From: mel niedermeyer <mel.niedermeyer@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 11:29:08 -0700 (PDT)
To: 

It has come to my attention that despite the city of Los Angeles recognizing that WESTCHESTER is part of the Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa vista community, it is said we are again being lumped in with the East cities that we have little or nothing in common with. I am totally against this. We are NOT being represented properly with that. We share common interests and concerns with the South Bay Cities ie: Lax issues, coastal and environmental. Please do what is best for our community and put us with the south bay cities.

Thanks

Mel Niedermeyer

Westchester CA 90045
Subject: Public Comment: 4 - Los Angeles

From: Frank Diaz <frank_diaz@california-redistricting.com>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 18:03:13 +0000
To: 

From: Frank Diaz <frank_diaz@california-redistricting.com>
Subject: Separating Downtown Los Angeles

Message Body:
Dear California Redistricting Commission,

What are you thinking???? Downtown LA Senate boundaries make no sense.

Why have one map divide Downtown Los Angeles so badly in the State Senate? Its like your drawer went out of there way to draw a hook into the heart of DTLA. Those lines are very disrespectful to the State's largest and most significant city. Wasn't the Commission suppose to make government work for the people?

I work and live in the Industrial Arts District in DTLA. There is a group of us that have move to DTLA over the past 10 years because we were excited to be in a place where for once government seems to be working together to make things better. Downtown has gotten better but still has a long way to go.

But now will I have to contact the Senator in Inglewood when the other Senator will likely be blocks away from my home and business????

Don't my stick neighborhood Downtown with Culver City and the City of Inglewood. It just doesn't make any sense. There are so many important things happening in downtown LA including the new stadium, art walk and the new urban core atmosphere.

Please be consistent. The natural boundaries of Downtown Los Angeles are 10 Freeway, the LA River, the 110 Freeway--- look at the street maps those are natural geographic borders unlike 2nd street or 4th or Spring or Broadway you currently propose.

I urge the commission to help support of Downtown Los Angeles by keeping it together.

Frank Diaz,
Downtown Los Angeles Artist Alliance

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
To whom it may concern:

I would like to retract my previous letter, dated July 21, 2011, in favor of including Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista in the "Beach Cities" congressional district. Upon reflection, I am in accord with these communities being included in the current district with surrounding Eastern communities which are affected heavily by airport issues, environmental issues and traffic concerns.

Please remove my earlier letter from your tally of those in favor of a change in the districting parameters.
Thank you.

Sally Anderson, Westchester, CA  90045
Gentlemen:

My family and I have been residents of Westchester for over 35 years we have enjoyed the support and dedication of the residents to make this a unique place among the South Bay community and an integral part of the city Los Angeles. To change the representation of this area would alter the character of Westchester and severely upset the unique place this area has in the South bay and beach city communities. Please do not redistrict Westchester!

Sincerely, Peter Noonan
Subject: redistricting
From: Jill Kahn
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 09:40:48 -0700
To: 

To whom it concerns:

We live in the Pico Robertson area and are an Observant Jewish family. We learned of the redistricting that is set to take place soon and want to underscore the importance of aligning this community to the Fairfax/La Brea/H Hancock Park area. We share many of the same facilities, and schools. Truly we are one community. I live in Pico/Robertson, yet send my children to a school near La Brea. We often go to synagogue near La Brea. I often shop for food, clothes, household items, in the Fairfax area. We are truly NOT separate, in that the Observant community in Los Angeles is a very fluid community, using both areas as their stomping ground. Please take this into account as you redistrict this area. It will be a positive outcome socially and politically for our community as well as the politicians who will be voted to represent these areas.

Thanks,

Jill Kahn
Los Angeles, CA 90035
Subject: redestriciting
From: Irwin Balter <irwinbalter@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 09:34:19 -0700 (PDT)
To: 

1. I live in the Hancock Park/Beverly-Fairfax of Los Angeles.

2. The Beverly-Fairfax/Hancock Park and Pico-Robertson/Beverlywood and Beverlywood and Beverly Hills adjacent neighborhoods constitute a single, integrated community-of-interest (COI) with many shared Jewish community institutions. The only way that the Orthodox Jewish community will have a voice in the Assembly is if Fairfax/Hancock Park and Pico-Robertson/Beverlywood are all in the "LAMWS" district.

3. I have personal connections to all of these communities. The communities are intertwined. A substantial proportion of students in our children's schools are from the other Jewish neighborhoods. The same is true for all neighborhood schools here serving the Orthodox Jewish community. Members of our communities shop in restaurants and shop in stores on a weekly basis. We attend classes and religious events together. Our children are in the same same sports leagues. We have integrated community services and activities: emergency response system, charitable organizations, community center. This district line is very close to several major Jewish institutions, severing the constituency essentially in half, with half the members in one district, and half in the other.

4.Uniting our community in a single district will not weaken the representation of any other minority group or community of interest.

5. Thank you for putting some of Pico-Robertson into the "LAMWS" district, but please do not divide Pico-Robertson/Beverlywood in half. All of Pico-Robertson/Beverlywood should be in the "LAMWS" district, along with Beverly-Fairfax, Hancock Park and Beverly Hills.

6. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.
Please leave Torrance in District 36. This is our community and we would like it to stay that way.

Thank you;
William Diroll
Dear Members of the Committee:

I do not want you to change the districts in South Los Angeles and effectively eliminate any voice by African-Americans in the political arena. Please reconsider.

Jeannie Washington
Westchester and Playa del Rey need to remain in the 35th CD and NOT be placed into the beach cities congressional district. We are a community of interest with Inglewood and Los Angeles areas under the LAX Flight Path. The only beach cities area we have any commonality with is El Segundo due to the proximity to LAX. Furthermore the Airport Marina Counseling Service serves the underserved in Westchester, Inglewood and areas surrounding of LAX. This is a diverse area containing several large educational institutions including Loyola Marymount University and Otis Parsons. These institutions have very diverse and international community working together with our community.

We are NOT a community of interest with these beach cities. We are, however, a community of interest with the areas surrounding LAX.

As a resident and a professional working in Los Angeles 90045, please keep us in our community of interests which includes all the entities surrounding LAX and maintain our location in CD 35.

Nancy-Gene W. Morrison
Westchester, CA 90045
To Whom it May Concern,

I am deeply concerned that the initial decision to group Westchester with the South Bay and the Playa del Rey/Playa Vista areas in the current redistricting has now been changed. I have lived in Westchester for over twenty-eight years and it is obvious to me that our issues and concerns have much more in common with the South Bay and with Playa del Rey/Playa Vista than with the communities to the east of us. We share concerns about LAX expansion and safety, transportation concerns, and issues that have to do with environmental challenges to our coastal area. We share and attend schools, park programs, the YMCA, churches and shopping areas with residents of Playa del Rey, at the very least, and Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista is recognized by the City of Los Angeles as one area and that is the way we live. It makes absolutely no sense to put us in another district for governmental purposes and would actually be very inefficient in terms of addressing our concerns and needs.

I hope that you will include Westchester in the district with which it shares so many concerns and interests. This is long overdue and the opportunity will not come again for a long time.

Dallas Brent Tolton
Los Angeles 90045
Good morning,

I am writing to express my family's thoughts on the current districting proposals under review. We have been Westchester residents for 7 years now and both of my children are Westchester natives. Over these years, our family has built a wonderful network of friends in the area. I have been a Board Member of the Westchester MOMS Club for the past 3 years and have been President of the MOMS Club for the '10-'11 Board year. Being in this unique position, I am to see even more how much interconnected there is between our city and the Playa del Rey / Playa Vista community. I regularly met with the President of the Playa Del Rey MOMS Club to plan and implement events and activities that could benefit both clubs, and worked on service projects that benefit many of the local charitable organizations.

Regularly we would meet Playa and Playa Vista families at the local parks (located in all 3 neighborhoods) and some have become dear family friends. Many Westchester, Playa Del Rey, and Playa Vista families have met each other through neighborhood classes while our children were babies. At our local Westchester nursery school, within walking distance of all of our homes - a block away from our own - you will find a nice blend of families from all 3 areas. We have always loved our close-knit Westchester-Playa Del Rey-Playa Vista. I learned (and am still learning!) what it means to be a Mother and a role model to my children with these local families.

We share many of the same interests and concerns being so close geographically (such as LAX issues and transportation issues) and we made it a point to share the information with each other to band together as a unified group. This has been true as well for the neighboring South Bay community, as myself and many of the Westchester families we know have close ties with other families in neighboring El Segundo and Manhattan Beach. We personally live a mere 3 miles from the beach (some Westchester residents are less than 2 miles away) and for this reason we have a strong concern for the coastal / environmental issues unique to our coastal area. The very same community interests that are important to us are the same ones that are shared by all of the South Bay Beach Cities.

Los Angeles is a huge city. It is easy for families to get lost and feel isolated. I feel so proud and protective of the way Westchester has bonded with our fellow South Bay communities to create a small town feel in such a large metropolitan area. Just this month, our 3 local MOMS Clubs all walked together in the 12th Annual Westchester Parade. We all decorated our kids' strollers, wagons, bikes, and scooters in red, white and, blue, and waved our flags as neighbors from the all of these areas cheered us on. As our groups walked, together, we showed our solidarity and pride -- not just for our local bond, but in knowing how our local bond helps to strengthen America as a whole.

I know I speak for many of the local families when I urge you to keep Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista aligned within the same district. This way, we can continue to model for our children our sense of community and civic responsibility, and serve as a source of inspiration for our community and others...that if we work together, we can accomplish wonderful things.
I appreciate your consideration and I am happy to answer to any questions to explain any of my thoughts in greater detail.

Respectfully,
Kristen Wong
Mother of Alden (5) and Skylen (4)
Westchester Resident
July 22, 2011

Honorable Commissioners,

When I joined you last week in Sacramento, I implored you to consider the fact that communities of color in South Los Angeles share many concerns, chief among them economic and social justice.

I’ve lived and worked in the Watts area for my entire life and have seen significant demographic transitions over the years. These changes have allowed for bonds and partnerships to grow between Black and Brown communities. We not only appreciate each other’s cultural experience, we work together in efforts to advance public policies that make our communities healthier, safer and in a general state of greater well-being.

As the leader of a not-for-profit providing services to all people in my community, regardless of color or creed, it is imperative that the people of South Los Angeles be kept in configurations that maintain our political representation. You’ve heard the "2-3-4" plan that keeps two state senate, three congressional and four state assembly districts in configurations that maximize the voices of African Americans and Latinos in our political process. This plan not only works and makes sense, but best represents the hopes and aspirations of the voters living in those districts who used the democratic process to select representative leadership.

You have also recently heard about the some in the Hawthorne community who are grouped in your current proposals with Inglewood, Gardena and portions of South Los Angeles in visualizations at each level of representation. I submit that common interests shared between Hawthorne and the Beach Cities are novel but unrealistic when constructing districts as large as those in California.

The issue of Torrance being placed in congressional and state senate districts that include Inglewood, Gardena and certain portions of South Los Angeles is troubling. Torrance shows little interest in being grouped with these areas and has significantly different attitudes, norms and viewpoints. A split of Gardena to keep the Asian communities of interest in tact is in order while keeping most of Torrance where it belongs in a Beach cities district.

As a former Redistricting Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles, I appreciate the challenge you’ve risen to meet. However, I’d like to remind you that the spirit behind your charge is avoid committing harm to communities of interest. I am concerned by the manner in which lines are drawn that push African Americans, as a community of intense
interest, into configurations that not only undermine, but eliminate the small gains that have been achieve over the years through the normal, democratic election processes. As I cautioned you during the Downtown Los Angeles Hearing, members of the Commission should avoid following the lead of any individual commissioner that appears driven by passion to move the group one way or other. A fair application of the rules will surely bear out the 2-3-4 plan as a thoughtful, equitable solution to the many groups in the Southern Region that have fought hard to elect representatives that have proven over time to best represent the common interests share by communities of color.

A truly thoughtful citizen effort should empower communities by extending the reach of their voices rather than muting them with the “two minute rule”. Civic…..and civil dialogue is the best vessel for resolution in a sometimes turbulent and impassioned debate. As an African American, I along with the rest of Black California will continue tracking this experiment in Citizen Redistricting to assure that the spirit of the mission is not undermined by less than deliberate contemplation.

Respectfully,

Timothy Watkins
President and CEO
Former City of Los Angeles Redistricting Commissioner
Subject: Westchester and South Bay Cities
From: Philomana Agege
Date: Fri, 22 Jul 2011 11:04:09 -0700 (PDT)
To:
CC:

I am writing because, I feel very strongly about this matter and hope that you will give it a very serious attention.

Not sure what our community Westchester, has as common interest with Cities such as Inglewood, South Central, Lennox etc. We have absolutely zero in common interest and, it will be a terrible mistake for anyone to suggest otherwise. Our community has Lax issues, coastal/environmental issues, which are commonalities more in line with the South Bay cities.

I do hope you will read this and many more emails from Westchester residents, and reconsider your decision. Westchester needs to be a part of the South Bay Cities!!

Very truly,

Philomena Agege
Real Estate Agent
Advantage Real Estate
Santa Monica, CA 90405
Thank you for this opportunity to share thoughts from some of the residents of the Westchester area and those in the proximity of the LAX airport.

We continue to encourage our residents to be a part of this process and are facilitating their efforts to have you hear from them as you make final decisions.

Again, thanks for all that you do! Be well!

JDW
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Name: **CAROL ROBINSON**
Email: 
City, State, Zip: LA, CA 90045
Signature: 

Name: **TOM ROBINSON**
Email: 
City, State, Zip: LA, CA 90045
Signature: 

Name: **JOHN SHIELDS**
Email: 
City, State, Zip: LA, CA 90045
Signature: 

Name: **MAURICIO VEJAR**
Email: 
City, State, Zip: LA, CA 90045
Signature: 

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Telephone: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90045
Signature: [Redacted]

Name: Kelly Lamina
Telephone: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: [Redacted]
Signature: [Redacted]

Name: Kenneth Kate
Telephone: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90045
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Name: [Redacted]
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Name: Jodie Evans
Address: 
City, State, Zip: Venice, CA 90291
Signature:

Name: Larry Mason
Address: 
City, State, Zip: Inglewood, CA 90291
Signature:

Name: Luci Eklundsson
Address: 
City, State, Zip: Westchester, CA 90045
Signature:

Name: Danna Cope
Address: 
City, State, Zip: Westchester, CA 90045
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Name: Semira Yousef
Telephone: 
Email: 
Signature: 

Name: Virginia Hame
Telephone: 
Email: 
Signature: 

Name: Michiko Oster
Telephone: 
Email: 
Signature: 

Name: Noura Cherade
Telephone: 
Email: 
Signature: 

City, State, Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90045
City, State, Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90045
City, State, Zip: L.A., Calif. 90045
City, State, Zip: LA, CA 90045
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Name: Judy Raphael
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: Westchester, CA 90045
Signature: [Redacted]

Name: Jeff Schoeder
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: [Redacted]
Signature: [Redacted]

Name: Eddie Rakosky
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: Westchester, CA 90045
Signature: [Redacted]

Name: Nohemi Rakosky
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: Westchester, CA 90045
Signature: [Redacted]
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<td>Los Angeles</td>
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Name: Rochelle Schneider
Email: 
Telephone: 
City, State, Zip: Lawndale, CA 90260
Signature: 

Name: Arlette Chew
Email: 
Telephone: 
City, State, Zip: Lawndale, CA 90260
Signature: 

Name: EUA Jean Coise
Email: 
Telephone: 
City, State, Zip: Lawndale, CA 90260
Signature: 

Name: Charlene Bray
Email: 
Telephone: 
City, State, Zip: 
Signature: 
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Name: DAWN BECKMAN-ACCIUS
Address: 
City, State, Zip: INGLEWOOD, CA 90303
Signature: 

Name: Beverly Sanford
Address: 
City, State, Zip: L.A., 90045
Signature: Beverly Sanford

Name: NANCY GENE W. MORRISON
Address: 
City, State, Zip: CA 90045
Signature: GEORGE W. MORRISON

Name: Robert Schultz
Address: 
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Name: Hans P. Getty
Address: Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: Email: Signature:

Name: Marjorie Gooley
Address: Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: Email: Signature: Marjorie Gooley

Name: Thomas J. Gooley
Address: Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: Email: Signature: Thomas J. Gooley

Name: Susan Reynolds
Address: L.A., CA, 90045
Telephone: Email: Signature: Susan Reynolds
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Name: Claire Rober
Address: 
Telephone: 
Email: 
City, State, Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90045
Signature:

Name: Anne Eduard
Address: 
Telephone: 
Email: 
City, State, Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90045
Signature:

Name: Nelia Anacleto
Address: 
Telephone: 
Email: 
City, State, Zip: 
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Name: Ronnie Johnson
Address: 
Telephone: 
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<td>Carlos Lopez</td>
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VIA FACSIMILE AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 22, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, California 95814
Fax: (916) 651-5711

EVENT Senate District: Include Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, and Brentwood to fully include the Santa Monica Mts Community of Interest

Dear Commissioners:

On June 27th we wrote to you asking that the Santa Monica Mountains community of interest not be fragmented. We are pleased to observe that in the most recent visualization of the EVENT district most of the Santa Monica Mountains is contained in one Senate district.

However, and most critically, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, and Brentwood need to be included in the EVENT district as well.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a joint powers local park agency that administers 60,000 acres of open space and parklands in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. As presently configured the majority of our parklands would be included in the EVENT district, but the parks that generate the most citizen concern would be excluded from this district. Specifically the MRCA manages Ramirez Canyon Park, Coastal Slope Trail, Escondido Canyon, Corral Canyon Park, Temescal Gateway Park, Westridge-Canyonback Open Space, and San Vicente Mountain Park that would be separated from the community of interest that would otherwise militate for inclusion of all of these areas within the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains, i.e., within the EVENT district.

These parks really are the “front line” public access points most accessible, and yet, by the same token, most impactful on local communities. These are state issues that relate best to the Santa Monica Mountains as a whole and should not be carved-out in a district that primarily relates to the South Bay and Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Sincerely,

Rorie A. Skei
Chief Deputy Executive Officer

A local park agency exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District pursuant to Section 6500 et seq. of the Government Code
The proposed senate redistricting event does not work. Please leave well enough alone.

A Topanga resident.
Hello, I am requesting that my comments below be given to Commissions regarding the 45th Assembly District.

My name is Jackie Goldberg. For 22 years I served Echo Park and Silverlake parts of Los Angeles (as well as Mt. Washington, most of Highland Park, a bit of Lincoln Heights, and the Beverly/Temple corridor) in Central and northeast Los Angeles. I was the elected School Board member, the elected City Council Member, and I represented the 45th Assembly district in Sacramento (all these from 1983-2006).

As I look at the current plans for the 45th District, I see proposed an end to the historic connection between Echo Park and Silverlake. I OPPOSE this separation on several grounds: (1) these two communities of Los Angeles have worked/planned/voted/and connected in historic ways since the beginning of the 20th Century, and breaking them apart would be unforgiveable, in my opinion; (2) these two communities provide a base for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender candidates to actually win public office outside of West Hollywood (which has never elected an openly Gay/Lesbian community member to State office; (3) these two communities are multi-ethnic, and multi-income, and represent more than either Hispanic/Latino/a voters and Anglo/white voters. Lumping Echo Park with East Los Angeles does NOTHING to improve the opportunities for Hispanic/Latino/a representation, but it does limit possibilities for the significant Asian Pacific Island community members that live in both Echo Park and Silverlake.

I hope you will seriously consider these remarks. Echo Park and Silverlake are NOT East Los Angeles. And they have never truly been "separate" communities. The two communities should remain connected in both State and Congressional districts.

Thank you in advance for submitting my brief remarks to the Commissioners.

Respectfully,

Jackie Goldberg, Assembly Member, AD 45, Retired
The Fairfax/Hancock Park neighborhood and Pico-Robertson/Beverlywood neighborhood constitute a single, integrated community-of-interest (COI) with many shared institutions. The only way that the Orthodox community will have a voice in the Assembly is if Fairfax/Hancock Park and Pico-Robertson/Beverlywood are all in the "LAMWS" district. I urge you to please keep these neighborhoods integrated.
Hello,

I am writing on behalf of my friends and colleagues in South Los Angeles. I am urging you to keep the 33rd, 35th and 37th districts in tact.

I had the honor of working with many of the activists in this community and saw the gains they made in schools and property legislation. Through their efforts—especially around A-G legislation—they have made thousands of students of color better prepared for college and I have seen students once considered at-risk go on top-tier universities.

Changing the district lines has the potential to eviscerate years of progress for a community that absolutely wants to continue growing and improving. Changing the lines may set this community back decades and impart the subsequent burden on surrounding communities and on Los Angeles as a whole.

For example, if the work done on improving schools is set back, LA will have to deal with even more students not being able to successfully transition into colleges, universities or meaningful jobs. If that happens, LA as a whole will be called upon to provide services for this population or deal with the consequences of having an even larger disadvantaged group of youth. Leaving the districts as they are will allow progress to continue being made, which will help the entire city of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Aydrea Walden ten Bosch
To Whom is may concern...

I have lived in the 33rd district most of my life, please do not take it upon yourselves as politicians to think it's okay to redistrict our community. I say NO NO NO. Let these neighborhoods remain the same under the Congressional powers of Laura Richardson, Maxine Waters and Karen Bass.

Carliss R. McGhee