July 14, 2011

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

RE: Submittal of Testimony and Documents at Commission’s July 14, 2011 Meeting

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

Mayor Bob Huber today personally testified at the California Citizens Redistricting Commission and submitted into the record a transcript of his oral testimony and a set of documents entitled “City of Simi Valley Proposal for Congressional District Boundary Maps.”

An additional copy of the Mayor’s comments and the accompanying boundary maps are enclosed with this letter to ensure that they are made a part of the Commission’s record.

The City of Simi Valley appreciates the opportunity to comment and participate in the Commission’s proceedings.

Sincerely,

Laura Behjan
Assistant City Manager

Enclosures

cc: City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
I am Mayor Bob Huber from the City of Simi Valley. I have traveled here today to present alternative Congressional district configurations for our region that would better meet the Commission’s objectives for setting boundaries, based on rational criteria that addresses geographic constraints, and contiguity of communities. The Commission is currently considering placing Simi Valley into the Antelope Valley-Santa Clarita district. This would unnaturally link Simi Valley across a mountain range to a population more than 30 miles away, diminishing representation for the 127,000 residents of Simi Valley. I am submitting a series of maps illustrating the separation and our proposal for a more logical configuration — a visualization that keeps Simi Valley an integral part of Ventura County and remains true to its commonly known historic designation as the “Gateway to Ventura County.”
The first draft Antelope Valley – Santa Clarita Congressional District map splits the City of Santa Clarita between two districts, literally down its Main Street. The whole of Santa Clarita and a portion of Los Angeles could be placed into the Antelope Valley- Santa Clarita District, thus allowing for Simi Valley and Moorpark to shift into the East Ventura County District. This would cure the geographic and population separation caused by placing Simi Valley into the Antelope Valley map.

Recognizing that the Commission is constrained from making adjustments at the northern end of Ventura County, and considering continuity of urban areas, the 101 corridor from Thousand Oaks to Agoura Hills would then shift from the East Ventura District into the West San Fernando Valley-Calabasas District, as that corridor is continuously developed. Further, these communities, bridging two counties, have consciously elected to share their common interests, one example of which is the unification of the Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills Chambers of Commerce. I would additionally note that this
configuration with the Thousand Oaks area as part of the West San Fernando Valley Congressional District existed from 1992–2002 and, according to recent news reports, was considered by the Thousand Oaks former Mayor and current Mayor pro tem to have worked well for their community.

I urge your favorable review of our proposal, and the benefits it has in addressing current flaws in the First Draft Congressional District maps.

Thank you for your time.
CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

City of Simi Valley Proposal for
Congressional District Boundary Maps

Submitted to:

California Citizens Redistricting Commission

July 14, 2011
Issue 1: Simi Valley and Santa Clarita are not closely related.

- Located in different counties, on different freeway corridors, with a mountain between them
- Travel between them is 30.5 miles and 39 minutes of driving
Issue 2:

The City of Santa Clarita is split into two districts.

The proposed plan literally splits Main Street from the rest of Santa Clarita.
Step 1: Make Santa Clarita whole, and incorporate a portion of Los Angeles into its district.
Step 2: Move Simi Valley and Moorpark into the East Ventura County District to balance the Santa Clarita district.
Step 3: Move the 101 Corridor into the San Fernando Valley District to balance each district's population.
The 101 Freeway Corridor is a contiguous urban area consisting of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, and Calabasas.

Contiguous urban development through Calabasas (Los Angeles County)
The 101 Freeway Corridor is a contiguous urban area consisting of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, and Calabasas.

Contiguous urban development through Agoura Hills (Los Angeles County)
The 101 Freeway Corridor is a contiguous urban area consisting of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, and Calabasas.

Contiguous urban development through Westlake Village
(Los Angeles County)