To all:

Simi Valley is divided by a huge mountain range and is at the east end of Ventura County. We thank you for keeping us together for the Senate seat. On the final map, since the choice seems to be either Santa Clarita or San Fernando Valley, we are more like the Santa Clarita community, rather than the dominant LA thinking prevalent in the San Fernando Valley.

Therefore, an alignment with Santa Clarita would better serve us.

We hope you will consider this on your final maps for redistricting.

Thank you!

Mr. & Mrs. Hal Goldstein
I am a resident of East Ventura County and thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps, please make one important change: include our Senate Seat with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Mary C. Genstil
Newbury Park, CA 91320
I am a resident of OAK PARK, in East Ventura County and want to thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita. Thank you.

Lenore Lewis

Oak Park, CA  91377
We are residents of Thousand Oaks in East Ventura County and we thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps we have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

All this can easily be done by swapping out the City of Reseda (est 60,000 people) currently in the EVENT SD and putting it in with the LASFE SD. 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 take out the City of Granada Hills (est 60,000 people) from the LASFE SD and put it into the LAAVV SD. Granada Hills is a community of interest with many parts of the LAAVV SD. To make up loss population from the EVENT SD, you can take Valencia, Newhall, Castaic, everything east of the 14 Freeway etc ... form the SCV, which would equal to approximately 60,000 people, from the LAAVV SD and complete the equal population swap between the three districts. East Ventura County and Santa Clarita have historically been in the same senate district for the last three decades and are a community of interest.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita! Please listen to our voice.

Thank you,

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Wurschum
Thousand Oaks 91360
Hello,
I am a resident of Thousand Oaks in East Ventura County and I thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

All this can easily be done by swapping out the City of Reseda (est 60,000 people) currently in the EVENT SD and putting it in with the LASFE SD. 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 take out the City of Granada Hills (est 60,000 people) from the LASFE SD and put it into the LAAVV SD. Granada Hills is a community of interest with many parts of the LAAVV SD. To make up loss population from the EVENT SD, you can take Valencia, Newhall, Castaic, everything east of the 14 Freeway etc ... form the SCV, which would equal to approximately 60,000 people, from the LAAVV SD and complete the equal population swap between the three districts. East Ventura County and Santa Clarita have historically been in the same senate district for the last three decades and are a community of interest.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita.

Thank you,
Claira Guerra
Thousand Oaks, CA
Subject: Solution to EVENT Senate Seat
From: "Shupe, Chris" <shupe@district4.org>
Date: 7/22/2011 11:54 AM
To: Communications Office <communications@district4.org>

On Fri, Jul 22, 2011 at 10:57 AM, Janice Wurschum <janice@district4.org> wrote:

We are residents of Thousand Oaks in East Ventura County and we thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps we have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

All this can easily be done by swapping out the City of Reseda (est 60,000 people) currently in the EVENT SD and putting it in with the LASFE SD. 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 take out the City of Granada Hills (est 60,000 people) from the LASFE SD and put it into the LAAV SD. Granada Hills is a community of interest with many parts of the LAAV SD. To make up loss population from the EVENT SD, you can take Valencia, Newhall, Castaic, everything east of the 14 Freeway etc ... form the SCV, which would equal to approximately 60,000 people, from the LAAV SD and complete the equal population swap between the three districts. East Ventura County and Santa Clarita have historically been in the same senate district for the last three decades and are a community of interest.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita! Please listen to our voice.

Thank you,

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Wurschum
Thousand Oaks 91360
We have nothing in common with the San Fernando Valley. We are not anything like the San Fernando Valley and don’t want to be. Thousand Oaks needs to be kept together. I cannot imagine a bigger mistake than this and it seems like everything that is going on is political games to break our commonality apart. We have so much more in common with the Santa Clarita area. How an city can be cut in half and parsed out willy nilly is just another example of what is going wrong in America. Please do not destroy and cut up our city. Linking us to the San Fernando Valley certainly would be anything but a representation of our area and we would never be properly served or represented properly by elected officials.

Respectfully,

Ann Telling

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
I am a resident of East Ventura County and thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita. Thank you.
Hello there,

I am a resident of East Ventura County and thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita. Thank you.

-Brad Sarian
I am a resident of East Ventura County and thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners,

I am a resident of East Ventura County and thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita.

Thank you,
Jackie Burditt
Moorpark, CA 93021
I am a resident of East Ventura County and thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita.

Sincerely Yours,

Marston D Robertson,
Simi Valley, CA 93063.
I am a resident of East Ventura County and thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita. Thank you.

Cathi Scheurn  
Thousand Oaks,
Subject: EVENT Senate Seat Recommendation
From: "Allyne Collins" <allyne.collins@calegislature.ca.gov>
Date: 7/22/2011 5:18 PM
To: 

I am a resident of East Ventura County and thank you for keeping us together and whole in the Senate Seat. As you consider final maps I have one important change: Include us with more of Santa Clarita and less of the 101 corridor in the San Fernando Valley in our Senate Seat.

There has been much testimony that we do not have a community of interest with the high-rises of Encino and Ventura Blvd. Please link us to more of Santa Clarita as you finish drawing the Senate maps. We are not like the 101 corridor of the San Fernando Valley and ARE like the suburban area of Santa Clarita. Thank you.

Allyne Collins
Please find attached a letter dated today from Mayor Bob Huber regarding redistricting. The original letter will be sent via Federal Express.

I am also including a copy of the presentation made by Mayor Bob Huber to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission in Sacramento on July 14, and the alternative maps that were submitted to the Commission that same day.

Mary

Mary Bearns
Executive Assistant
City Manager's Office
City of Simi Valley
Simi Valley, CA 93063

Attachments:

Letter dated 7-22-11 to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.pdf 106 KB
Document #2 - Mayor Hubers Redistricting Testimony.pdf 32.7 KB
Document #3 - Alternative Maps and Distance.pdf 5.4 MB
July 22, 2011

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


Dear Honorable Members of the Commission:

On Thursday, July 14, 2011 I provided testimony before your Commission opposing the proposal to include Simi Valley in the Antelope Valley-Santa Clarita Congressional District.  I provided an oral statement and distributed a packet of maps and a comprehensive proposal to the Commissioners that would place Simi Valley in the East Ventura Congressional District.  The proposal outlined the three steps that the Commission could implement to place Simi Valley back in the East Ventura Congressional District, make Santa Clarita whole, and rebalance the populations of the three districts affected by this change.

In preparation for my testimony, Commission staff was contacted to verify the amount of time I would be allotted to make my statements.  We were advised that Public Comment is limited to two minutes per speaker; therefore my testimony was prepared to maximize the two-minute time frame.  Upon arriving at the meeting, I was informed that a one and a half minute time limit would be imposed on my comments.  As a result, I was unable to present my statement in its entirety, and although it was provided to the Commission in writing, along with our comprehensive proposal for placing Simi Valley in the East Ventura Congressional District, actions taken subsequent to my interrupted testimony indicate the City’s proposal was not fully reviewed.

The July 16, 2011 Line Drawing Instructions posted on the Commission’s website contain a note related to my submission stating that “Simi Valley sent a handout drawing attention to a possible split in Santa Clarita.”  The final direction states “Make sure Santa Clarita is whole.”  Based on the notes made and published, it appears the Commission has misinterpreted the City’s position to respect Simi Valley’s community of interest with Ventura County, instead selectively choosing pieces of information from our proposal.
The City of Simi Valley’s primary area of concern was not and is not the split of Santa Clarita. I urge the Commission to review the City’s comprehensive proposal again in its entirety and full context. The proposal’s focus was on placing Simi Valley back into the East Ventura Congressional District and it provided the steps the Commission could take to implement the proposal. Included in those steps, was a graphic illustration of the linkages that the City of Thousand Oaks has along the 101 Corridor with Los Angeles County cities, the opportunity to make Santa Clarita whole, and the methods the Commission could use to balance the populations in the three districts that would be affected by placing Simi Valley in the East Ventura Congressional District. Each of these components was based on thoughtful consideration of geography, community associations, and a rational alignment of communities of interest.

The Commission appears to be providing more weight to the testimony provided for some communities than for others. For example, the City of Simi Valley and the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce have both provided testimony to the Commission regarding the City’s community of interest with Ventura County. Both the City and Chamber collaborate with other Ventura County agencies on transportation, schools, judicial issues, social services and economic development. Conversely, the City of Thousand Oaks is a member of the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce, which represents the cities of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills, and promotes social and economic interest among those communities. Westlake Village and Agoura Hills are both located in the County of Los Angeles, demonstrating the interconnectivity and common interests those communities share across the County line. This affiliation demonstrates that Thousand Oaks itself has recognized there is a community of interest with cities in Los Angeles County.

From 1992 to 2002, Thousand Oaks was part of the West San Fernando Valley Congressional District, to no detriment of their representation. In fact, a Ventura County Star article dated July 8, 2011 quoted Thousand Oaks Mayor Pro Tem Jacqui Irwin as stating City residents should not be overly concerned if Thousand Oaks were not in a district with the rest of Ventura County. Nevertheless, the Commission has repeatedly made accommodations to include the whole of Thousand Oaks with the rest of Ventura County in the line drawing. Simi Valley has repeatedly communicated and demonstrated a much stronger community of interest with Ventura County, yet the Commission continually places us with districts in Los Angeles County.

The City of Simi Valley has now appealed to the Commission on five separate occasions through letters, public testimony and a Resolution stating the City’s primary priority that the integrity of Simi Valley’s borders be maintained and that the communities of Ventura County be kept together to the maximum extent possible. The statement reflected in the Line Drawing Instructions from July 16, 2011 is inconsistent with the testimony provided by our City to the Commission on July 14, 2011 and the testimony we have repeatedly made to the Commission.
As the date for the submission of the final maps approaches, we respectfully request that the Commission review all of the testimony provided by the City of Simi Valley and reconsider the statements made in the Line Drawing Instructions to recognize their misinterpretation of the data provided by the City of Simi Valley. To assist you in that regard, I am again submitting my testimony and materials provided to the Commission on July 14, 2011.

Should your staff require further details on our proposal, they may contact Assistant City Manager Laura Behjan at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Robert O. Huber
Mayor

Enc.

cc: City Council
    City Manager
    City Attorney
    Assistant City Manager, Government Affairs
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.
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.
Subject: Follow up to seaker 2 7/22/11

Date: 7/22/2011 3:46 PM

To: 

Message Body:

I did not receive a confirmation email so I am following up on this to make sure.

Thank you,

Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity again to speak to you this morning during the public comment. I would like to follow up with a question that was asked of me regarding what adjustments that would need to be made in order to justify our recommendation this morning.

Here is a more specific outline of what we recommended this morning:

Swap out the City of Reseda (est 60,000 people) currently in the EVENT SD and put it in with the LASFE SD. 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 take out the City of Granada Hills (est 60,000 people) from the LASFE SD and put it into the LAAVV SD. Granada Hills is a community of interest with many parts of the LAAVV SD.

To make up loss population from the EVENT SD, you can take Valencia, Newhall, Castaic, everything east of the 14 Freeway etc ... form the SCV, which would equal to approximately 60,000 people, from the LAAVV SD.

This would complete the equal population swap between the three districts. East Ventura County and Santa Clarita have historically been in the same senate district for the last three decades and are a community of interest.

Both the San Fernando Valley and the regions of Santa Clarita will benefit from this adjustment which make this a well balanced plan for three areas.

We want to thank the commission for making adjustment thus far that have made this final request closer than when we first started this process. We believe the testimony that has been collected from this region has been significant, and that this final adjustment will be a benefit the the population for the next 10 years. thank you for your on going considerations.

Thank you,

Bob Gutierrez (speaker 2 7/22/11)

Latino Policy Forum