

September 23, 2011

Dear members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

I write to urge the Board of Supervisors not to adopt either redistricting plan T1 or S2 because most of the Westside and West San Fernando Valley would be placed in one or more other districts, negatively affecting three and a half million residents. It took us years to develop a harmonious and efficient working set of political and community relationships within the present Third District and to tear that apart will be destructive of good government and years of hard work. Public-private partnerships in the world of health care delivery through clinics would be upset and compromised. The same would be true of social service networks, both public and private.

As a Santa Monica College Trustee I am particularly concerned about the potential impact of breaking up the Third District on the timely completion of the light rail system to service the Westside. Both Santa Monica College and the residents of Westside are proud and dedicated advocates of preserving our beautiful environment, including the beaches, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area, and we feel the same about Griffith Park. The residents of the present Third District, because of their environmental conscientiousness, are best positioned, if permitted to continue to operate with political unity and a single voice, protect those treasures for the entire County.

As a political scientist teaching California and United States government at Santa Monica College, I fully respect and honor the need to be in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act. But the best way to accomplish that is to promote equal representation and harmony in our County, and definitely not to dismantle the Third District because of the harmful effects it would have on the issues and problems I referred to above.

Thank you for considering my concerns before you acts.

Yours truly'

DAVID B. FINKEL
Trustee, Santa Monica College