

**From:** Jan Sandstrom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:16 AM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Cc:** Yaroslavsky, Zev  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Dear Officials:

After careful review of the proposed redistricting maps we've decided that the plan that would most benefit our household is **the A3 map**. As residents of the San Fernando Valley this plan would enable many proposed projects, or those already underway to be carried out.

The two redistricting plans, known as S2 and T1, that have been offered, would move nearly 40% of the County's population from one District to another, and in so doing radically change the boundaries of our Third District. This will definitely affect the quality of our representation and could jeopardize the tremendous progress we've made in transportation, homelessness, land use and many other issues for SFV. Proponents of these plans say they're needed to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act, but the Federal Courts say that's not the case in regions where non-minority voters regularly "cross over" to support minority-favored candidates – as we've experienced here with the elections of such Latino leaders as Antonio Villaraigosa and Sheriff Lee Baca.

Dividing us would radically redraw the Board of Supervisors' district boundaries, leaving communities fragmented and an estimated 3.5 million people suddenly represented by a supervisor for whom they never cast a vote. Worse, some of these same people would be denied the right to vote for a supervisor for as long as six years because of the timing of elections. The scope of the fallout would be vast and swift, potentially undermining the ability of communities to speak with one voice as advocates for their common interests. For example, the San Fernando Valley, which has fought hard to maintain its own identity, would be carved into three different districts. Hollywood and mid-Wilshire, meanwhile, could be included in a district with such distant cities as Lomita and Cerritos.

Redistricting would also significantly injure our ability to fight together to improve transportation in our communities, keep a close watch on development issues, extend health care to our underserved population and protect the environment of the Santa Monica Mountains and the north Santa Monica Bay. Both of the proposed maps/plans create two districts in which Latinos would comprise more than half the voting-age citizens, instead of one such district now. But contrary to the arguments put forward by supporters of the proposed maps, their adoption is not required by this law. The Voting Rights Act requires an equal opportunity for minority groups; it does not require the creation of districts in which a single minority group comprises more than 50% of the voting age citizenry. The Federal courts have ruled that "fifty percent" districts are only required when voting is so racially polarized that non-minorities consistently vote against minority-preferred candidates to such an extent that those candidates are denied an equal opportunity to win.

The notion that non-minorities won't vote for a minority candidate in L.A. County is antiquated. Los Angeles in 2011 is not the same as the Los Angeles of forty, thirty or even twenty years ago. Our county is politically and socially far more mature and broad-minded. In the last decade, many elections have been won by Latino candidates even where Latinos did not represent a majority of the voters. These candidates include Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Sheriff Lee Baca and County Assessor John Noguez.

**It is possible to redistrict this county in a manner that protects the voting rights of minorities without dismembering established communities of interest, without shifting nearly 40% of our population from one district to another, and without relying on antiquated assumptions about the voting behavior of different segments of the electorate. The federal courts have given us the roadmap to get this done, and have consistently rejected efforts to use the Voting Rights Act in the way the backers of these new plans propose.**

**Please vote for what is best for our PRESENT TODAY and what "WE THE PEOPLE" want which is a Yes Vote on Map A3!**

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Sylmar Stakeholders,  
Barry & Janette Sandstrom

[REDACTED]  
Sylmar CA 91342

**From:** CATHERINE BARTIK-SWEENEY [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 11:37 PM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Cc:** Yaroslavsky, Zev  
**Subject:** HEAR OUR VOICES re: Redistricting!

**Importance:** High

Dear Officials:

The two redistricting plans, known as S2 and T1, that have been offered, would move nearly 40% of the County's population from one District to another, and in so doing radically change the boundaries of our Third District. This will definitely affect the quality of our representation and could jeopardize the tremendous progress we've made in transportation, homelessness, land use and many other issues for SFV. Proponents of these plans say they're needed to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act, but the Federal Courts say that's not the case in regions where non-minority voters regularly "cross over" to support minority-favored candidates – as we've experienced here with the elections of such Latino leaders as Antonio Villaraigosa and Sheriff Lee Baca.

Dividing us would radically redraw the Board of Supervisors' district boundaries, leaving communities fragmented and an estimated 3.5 million people suddenly represented by a supervisor for whom they never cast a vote. Worse, some of these same people would be denied the right to vote for a supervisor for as long as six years because of the timing of elections. The scope of the fallout would be vast and swift, potentially undermining the ability of communities to speak with one voice as advocates for their common interests. For example, the San Fernando Valley, which has fought hard to maintain its own identity, would be carved into three different districts. Hollywood and mid-Wilshire, meanwhile, could be included in a district with such distant cities as Lomita and Cerritos.

Redistricting would also significantly injure our ability to fight together to improve transportation in our communities, keep a close watch on development issues, extend health care to our underserved population and protect the environment of the Santa Monica Mountains and the north Santa Monica Bay. Both of the proposed maps/plans create two districts in which Latinos would comprise more than half the voting-age citizens, instead of one such district now. But contrary to the arguments put forward by supporters of the proposed maps, their adoption is not required by this law. The Voting Rights Act requires an equal opportunity for minority groups; it does not require the creation of districts in which a single minority group comprises more than 50% of the voting age citizenry. The Federal courts have ruled that "fifty percent" districts are only required when voting is so racially polarized that non-minorities consistently vote against minority-preferred candidates to such an extent that those candidates are denied an equal opportunity to win.

The notion that non-minorities won't vote for a minority candidate in L.A. County is antiquated. Los Angeles in 2011 is not the same as the Los Angeles of forty, thirty or even twenty years ago. Our county is politically and socially far more mature and broad-minded. In the last decade, many elections have been won by Latino candidates even where Latinos did not represent a majority of the voters. These candidates include Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Sheriff Lee Baca and County Assessor John Noguez.

**It is possible to redistrict this county in a manner that protects the voting rights of minorities without dismembering established communities of interest, without shifting nearly 40% of our population from one district to another, and without relying on antiquated assumptions about the voting behavior of different segments of the electorate. The federal courts have given us the roadmap to get this done, and have consistently rejected efforts to use the Voting Rights Act in the way the backers of these new plans propose.**

**Please vote for what is best for our PRESENT TODAY and what "WE THE PEOPLE" want!**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sylmar stakeholder,

Cat Bartik-Sweeney



Sylmar, CA 91342

**From:** CommServ  
**To:** Nancy Toder  
**Subject:** RE: redistricting plans

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Toder [mailto:████████████████████]  
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2011 8:01 PM  
To: CommServ  
Subject: redistricting plans

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a resident of Topanga for 36 years. Our community is quite unique with very different realities and needs than the communities in town. Faced with flood, fire and other natural disasters, I have seen our community struggle to create local institutions and safe guards that are particular to those of us who live in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The current redistricting plan which breaks up the rural communities that comprise the Santa Monica Mountains not only makes no logical sense, but also poses a serious threat to the extraordinary time and effort that has gone into creating a cohesive community with similar interests and need.

Please do not threaten, let alone destroy, one of the most successful ventures in a partnership between local government and its residents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Nancy Toder

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 6:55 PM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Subject:** Redistricting

This is the second time there has been a strange gerrymander for the westside in my recollection. Naively, I hope regard for the public good will override political selfishness. Please go with plan 3 and LEAVE THE BOUNDARIES ALONE!

Sincerely,

Ellie Rosen

**From:** george martinez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 18, 2011 5:04 PM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Dear Members of Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

My position in redistricting is very clear: I strongly believe that Supervisor Yaroslavsky's Third District should be left intact. Mr. Yaroslavsky's interpretation of the Voting Rights Act is consistent with its content, intent and spirit of the law.

The acrimonious public comments that have permeated the debate is contrary to civil discourse. It is important to not chose your position to promote personal opinions unsupported by the facts, in an attempt to marginalize, dilute the amazing progress that is so prominent and welcomed in the Third District. It is truly a "point of light" in a county very much in need of an array of quality of life improvements.

Supervisor Gloria Molina's redistricting plan is an overt attempt to create a second Latino district, and in the process it may result in dissing the rights of Yaroslavsky's constituents to their continued and well deserved safe, affluent, and influential communities. They serve as a model for other county districts.

To borrow a phrase from governor Jerry Brown during his first two terms in office, "we should build for the future, not steal from it".

I would describe Supervisor Yaroslavski and his maverick image and commitment to his constituents, by quoting the great George Bernard Shaw, "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can".

George

**From:** Ortega, George [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:09 AM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Redistricting in Area of Sylmar

Dear Supervisors and Redistricting Officials;

My request is a small one. If it makes no difference in votes, could we not have the boundary be the ridgeline of the mountains about Sylmar? We have had two issues recently and/ or currently in which two actions were initiated on these slopes represented by one supervisor while we were represented by another. There definitely was the feeling that the supervisor of the other district was not sensitive to our concerns about these projects though we would be suffering the impacts. Chiefly that the only vehicular access to the sites were through our neighborhoods.

What I have read of critics of redistricting is that environmental areas of concern are divided at the detriment of the environment and the people. Rivers shouldn't be used as boundaries because it divides enforcement of water quality issues. Better to use water shed areas and their surrounding ridgelines to match the political interest with the environmental interest. Other interests like development, air quality, traffic, etc. would likely coincide with these lines.

And since between the current lines and ones I propose there is not a single residence that I know off, there should not be any conflict with Voting Rights Act requirements. At the very least all privately and County held property between the City of Los Angeles and National Forest Land should be in the same county district as us.

George Ortega  
Land Use Committee Co-Chairman  
Sylmar Neighborhood Council  
[REDACTED]

**From:** jill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:15 AM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Subject:** redistricting

I was at the meeting last week and noted the dynamics. I would give anything to be there this week too, but I have an important medical appointment. I would like to let you know, that as 41 year resident of Topanga, as a participant on several committes which have for many years worked on preserving the Santa Monica Mountains for the public, and as a Professor retired from Pierce College, I DO NOT WANT MY VOTES AND MY WORK TO DISAPPEAR. I AM IN FAVOR OF MAP A-3 AS THE LEAST DISRUPPTIVE AND LEAST DESTRUCTIVE PLAN. PLEASE CONVEY MY VIEWS!!!! JILL WALDRON

**From:** CommServ  
**To:** Lynn & Bruce Dickhoff  
**Subject:** RE: oppose redistricting plans

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn & Bruce Dickhoff [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2011 3:15 PM  
To: CommServ  
Subject: oppose redistricting plans

To Whom it May Concern:

It is difficult to comprehend the many unwelcome changes that would take place with the two proposed plans to draw up new districts.

Besides the huge cost involved, citizens are going to end up in districts with unknown (to them) supervisors.

As a resident of District 3, I am very pleased with my community's relationship with Supervisor Yaroslavsky and his deputies. We have worked together to make a lot of positive changes. Another supervisor would have no past history with us and many of the programs in place would not receive continuing support. There would also be lack of understanding of our concerns for open space, fire protection, our disaster preparedness organization, T-CEP, and many other things of importance to us in a rural environment.

Please leave the districts as they currently exist.

Sincerely,

Lynn Dickhoff  
Topanga

**From:** CommServ  
**To:** Megan Williams Lee  
**Subject:** RE: District 3

-----Original Message-----

From: Megan Williams Lee [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2011 11:28 AM  
To: CommServ  
Subject: District 3

Dear Board Members,

In your efforts to redraw the lines of district 3, PLEASE refrain from carving up the mountain regions. The Santa Monica Mountains area is the largest and richest wildland urban interface in the country. The residents here wish to protect the environment and believe you are sacrificing our representation.

We are very disturbed by your efforts to break up our district.

Sincerely angry,

Megan Williams

[REDACTED]  
Topanga, CA  
90290

September 19, 2011

Delivered via electronic mail to: [commserv@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:commserv@bos.lacounty.gov)

Executive Office  
Board of Supervisors  
Room 383  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple Street  
Los Angeles CA 90012



**RE: S2 AND T1 REDISTRICTING PLANS: OPPOSE**

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The Malibu Surfing Association (MSA) formed in 1961 as one of California's first surfing clubs. The MSA is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to the fellowship of surfing and to the stewardship of our home break, world-famous Malibu Surfrider Beach. In this 50th year of our club's founding, we remain intimately associated with the past, present, and future of Malibu surfing and of Surfrider Beach. MSA is a primary user group Surfrider Beach.

We know of no other organization that has as many cumulative hours surfing, recreating, and working to protect this beach. We are joined with friends, family, and fellow surfers who recognize Surfrider Beach as an important recreational resource and a signature beach for the history and culture of our sport.

On behalf of the members of MSA, I am writing to oppose both the S2 and T1 redistricting plans. As president of the club, and a resident of the Santa Monica Mountains, I believe that both proposals are deeply flawed.

While there are important issues affecting all of the coastal areas in both T1 and S2, these maps propose a district that is so spread out along the coast that the various areas, from the Malibu Creek Watershed in the North Bay to South Bay cities such as Long Beach, have little in common with each other. The South Bay does not have mountain watersheds immediately draining into its portion of the Bay like the North Bay, and the South Bay is an urbanized, dense, industrial area. This makes a huge difference in terms of how we address our shared obligation to manage our watershed runoff before it gets to the sea.

Surfing at Malibu is a primary reason we live in Southern California generally and in the Third District specifically. As surfers, we've benefited from a regional, coordinated-based approach to complex problems of sediment transport and water quality – both of which directly affect our surfing experience and the long-term quality of surfing at Surfrider Beach.

I urge you not to dilute the interests of the current district and ensure a vital future for this critical habitat by opposing the ill conceived T1 and S2 redistricting plans.

If you have questions regarding these comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at 619.980.3559.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Blum", written over several horizontal lines.

Michael Blum  
President  
on behalf of the Malibu Surfing Association

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 6:53 PM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Subject:** redistricting

Hello,

I will be unable to attend the meeting on the 27th because we will be out of town.

I have expressed my opinion previously and am here reiterating my opposition to both plans S2 and T1. It makes no sense to break up the Third District and all the work we have done over the years. Coupling the Third District with areas that have such different needs makes no sense.

I participate actively in many of the Santa Monica Mountains activities, including IRWMP steering committee, Malibu Creek watershed specific task forces and Heal the Bay Stream Team. I live at Malibou Lake, right in the middle of the watershed.

I am not a "just say no" person. These redistricting plans just make no sense.

Thanks for listening.

Michael Hart

[REDACTED]  
Agoura, CA 91301

Home: [REDACTED]  
Cell: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Website: MDHart.com

**From:** CommServ

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE:

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** Sunday, September 18, 2011 9:07 AM

**To:** CommServ

**Subject:**

To Whom it May Concern:

I strongly believe that the passing of S2 and T1 would be detrimental to the established communities of like interest, also with the possibility of not being able to vote for a supervisor for the period of two to six years. The Amended A3 is a plan to keep us together with the communities that have worked together for the betterment of our district.

Sincerely,

Olga Chapman

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 3:23 PM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Subject:** Opposition to S2 and T1 Redistricting Plans

To the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

We strongly oppose the proposed redistricting of Los Angeles County. We have been residents of Topanga Canyon and business owners of Canyon View Ranch for Dogs for thirteen years, and are very concerned about breaking up the Third District and creating such a disconnect to our neighboring communities.

As small business entrepreneurs, times are challenging enough without forcing small businesses like ours into a different district with a supervisor we did not elect. We have turned to the staff and representatives of the Third District numerous times for assistance and have appreciated and valued their understanding of our specific business challenges and concerns. Times are uncertain for every one of us struggling to keep our doors open and our workers employed, and to disrupt the bonds we have with our local government and our elected representatives puts an unnecessary hardship on the thousands of small businesses in the Third District. We rely on networking with each other and working in a collaborative way with our elected officials.

As residents who live and work in the Santa Monica Mountains we understand how important it is for all of us in Topanga Canyon to work closely with our neighboring communities in order to preserve this magnificent natural wonder. We depend on the Third District to help us accomplish that. I have served on many emergency preparedness teams and committees over the years, and have seen first hand what can happen when the private sector works side-by-side with local government. That only happens when there is a mutual trust and when cohesive relationships can be maintained. Redistricting will seriously jeopardize those relationships with our neighboring communities that have taken years to develop. We want a District where we can continue to elect a supervisor who represents and supports our priorities: protection of the environment, open space, land-use policies that let the land, not developers, dictate the use; protection of our communities and neighborhoods with disaster preparedness and planning policies that serve to save lives, property, and surrounding natural resources.

We urge you to reject redistricting plans S2 and T1, and to allow us to continue voting for the representatives of our choice, not someone who is merely assigned to us for political reasons.

Sincerely,  
RANDALL NEECE and JOE TIMKO  
Canyon View Ranch for Dogs

[REDACTED]  
Topanga, CA 90290  
[REDACTED]

**From:** R. Trust [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 5:37 PM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Subject:** New Supervisorial Districts-Breaking Up 3rd District Bad Idea

Don't cut apart the shared community interests that currently reside in the current 3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District. It is a mistake to attach and reattach pieces of a single community as is planned in the two offered maps (T1, S1). One should not gerrymander on false premises, as it appears is being done, to be politically correct. Creating districts based solely on ethnic group or race is another type of segregation and is not an advancement of civil rights. We are supposed to be a color blind and diverse community. As Zev has indicated, we have elected minorities to high local offices even though the majority of the voters in a given area were not of that person's ethnic group. It is wrong to assume that only a person of the same ethnic group can speak for that ethnic group. Eleanor Roosevelt spoke forcibly for blacks and she was white. Jews supported black civil rights in the 1960s, and most of them were white. To day we have blacks that disagree with liberals like Jesse Jackson and Hispanics that disagree with MAPA. We have whites that disagree with white conservatives. We have whites that disagree with white liberals. No ethnic group has a homogenous political opinion. Each member of an ethnic group has his own set of beliefs and opinions.

**Ron Trust**

Marina del Rey, CA 90292

(Really in the part of MdR that is the city of LA)

**From:** CommServ  
**To:** Sahaja Douglass  
**Subject:** RE: Redistricting

-----Original Message-----

From: Sahaja Douglass [mailto:  
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2011 9:06 PM  
To: CommServ  
Cc: Sahaja Douglass  
Subject: Redistricting

Dear Board of Supervisors,

While I cannot attend the meeting on Thursday September 27, I want to express how vehemently opposed my family and I are to the plan to change the boundaries of the Third district. I live in Topanga and have common interests with those who live near me. I am interested in preserving the natural environment, in ensuring that we have the best emergency preparedness plans possible and the resources to carry out these plans as we live in a geographical area that can be dangerous if there is a natural disaster of any kind. We want to protect the watershed, and wildlife. If our district is broken up in the illogical way proposed, our interests will be vastly different than others in the district and will make it difficult for us to have leadership that is responsive to our needs. What we need is a harmonious community of neighbors, not a melding together of people from far away locations to meet some political agenda.

PLEASE DO NOT BREAK APART THE THIRD DISTRICT!

Sincerely,

Sahaja Douglass, Topanga, CA  


**From:** Virginia Frank [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 17, 2011 10:09 AM  
**To:** CommServ  
**Subject:** redistricting Los Angeles County's supervisorial district boundaries

To Whom it may concern in regards to redistricting LA County's supervisorial district boundaries,

Our Third District unites three adjacent, interlocking communities of interest. It is a diverse and vibrant community, uniting the greater Westside, the San Fernando Valley, the Las Virgenes Region and the Santa Monica Mountains into a cohesive whole bound together by the Santa Monica Mountain range. It is topographically, geographically, economically and socially cohesive and compact and should be kept together.

Under the proposed plans, T1 and S1, fully half the Third District's current population would be shifted elsewhere and would carve up the San Fernando Valley for the first time among three supervisorial districts. This would destroy established relationships and set back progress on important community issues.

These plans would divide communities and would undermine and threaten progress made toward rapid transit through the west side. They would undermine the network of public-private partnership clinics now serving the Valley, Hollywood and the Westside compromising health care access. They would remove three juvenile probation camps from the third district threatening the progress made in improving outcomes for incarcerated youth.

Because of the district's beautiful natural setting including Griffith Park and the Santa Monica National Recreation Area, its residents share an interest in resolving environmental problems. We need leadership that is sensitive to these important issues as these treasures are jewels for the whole of LA county and southern California. Since the Third District include a large portion of the LA River Watershed and the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed, we need to keep these together in one compact, environmentally conscious district to ensure political leadership that understand the need to resolve watershed issues countywide.

Most importantly in my mind is the issue of emergency preparedness. Since I move to Southern California in the early '90s there have been fires earthquakes, floods and other manmade and environmental catastrophes. The third district is home to the entire Santa Monica Mountain Range and is no stranger to disasters. Our communities have made huge strides in learning from, preparing for and guarding against wildfire, floods and other emergency conditions. Keeping the Santa Monica Mountains as the centerpiece of a compact district would help ensure a political leadership that is sensitive to these issues.

I cannot attend the public hearing on September 27th as I have patients to see and am returning to work after a year battling stomach cancer. I am healthy now and I believe that is the beauty of these remarkable mountains and the cohesive caring of my community along with the resources available that I was able to get great health care and breath clean air and hike the mountains to renew my body and spirit.

Please do not experiment with theoretical ideas on a plan that already unites people and communities within a well working system.

Our Third District is a diverse and vibrant community, uniting the greater Westside, the San Fernando Valley, the Las Virgenes Region and the Santa Monica Mountains into a cohesive whole. Let's keep it that way!  
Look at what works and learn from it.

Thank you very much,  
Virginia Frank  
Topanga California.



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC.

*Moving Lives Forward*

6842 Van Nuys Blvd., 6th Floor, Van Nuys, CA 91405 Tel: (818) 901-4830

Ian Hunter, Ph.D., President/CEO

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracey Poirier, Chairperson  
Patricia Emerson Ph.D., 1st Vice Chair  
Marilyn Rand, Ph.D., MFCC, 2nd Vice Chair  
Seymour J. DeMatoff, CPA, Treasurer  
Theresa Carey Schonbach, CLU, ChFC, Secretary

William F. Byers, Esq.  
Jose Cornejo

Vivian Davenport, M.A., M.S.  
John Hissrich, Dr. PH  
William Huling, Ph.D.  
Zita D. Kass, M.A.  
Patricia L. McCabe, Esq.  
JoAnne McCray, MBA  
Charlie Rubin

#### EMERITUS BOARD

Elizabeth Kaufman, J.D.  
Stanley L. Singer, Ph.D.

#### ADVISORY BOARD

City Councilman Richard Alarcon  
Congressman Howard Berman  
City Councilman Tony Cardenas  
Fritz Coleman  
Tamar Galatzon, L.A. Board of Education  
Marsha Hunt  
City Councilman Paul Krekorian  
Senator Alex Padilla  
Congressman Brad Sherman  
City Councilman Greig Smith  
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
Congressman Henry Waxman  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

#### PROGRAMS

ADULT FIELD CAPABLE CLINICAL SVCS. (FCCS)  
ADULT FULL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP (FSP)  
CALWORKS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
CALWORKS HOMELESS FAMILIES PROJECT  
CALWORKS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
CENTER FOR FAMILY LIVING  
OUTPATIENT AND FCCS  
CHILDREN'S FCCS  
CHILDREN'S FULL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP  
CLIENT RUN CENTER  
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SERVICE CENTER  
CORNERSTONE FIELD CAPABLE CLINICAL SVCS.  
FAMILY PRESERVATION  
HOMEROUND FIELD CAPABLE CLINICAL SVCS.  
INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM FCCS  
JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS  
MACDONALD CAREY EAST VALLEY MHC  
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ASSESSMENT TEAM  
MULTI-SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM  
OLDER ADULT FULL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP  
PROJECT NEW START  
PROJECT SAFE  
THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES  
TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH FCCS  
TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH FSP  
TRANSITIONAL YOUTH INTENSIVE DAY TREATMENT  
TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH OUTPATIENT  
TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH RESIDENTIAL SERVICES  
TURNING POINT (WRAPAROUND)  
VALLEY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
VICTORY WELLNESS CENTER  
YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTERS - CENTRAL,  
EAST & NORTH VALLEY/FAMILY LINKS  
YOUTH CONTACT SCHOOL BASED SERVICES FCCS

[www.movinglivesforward.org](http://www.movinglivesforward.org)

## Via email and U.S. Mail

[Don@lac.bos.org](mailto:Don@lac.bos.org)

September 6, 2011

The Honorable Don Knabe  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple Street, #822  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

I am the President/CEO of the San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center (SFVCMHC), an agency established in 1970 to provide mental health and substance abuse services for severely mentally ill residents of the San Fernando Valley - many of whom are homeless. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed redistricting plans which could significantly disrupt the established network of mental health service agencies and their effectiveness in treating the most vulnerable residents of the San Fernando Valley.

The Center believes strongly in the intent and in the requirements of the federal Voting Rights Act, which is designed to insure that voting age minorities who are citizens, be provided with the opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Hopefully, new supervisorial boundaries can be drafted, which can satisfy the requirements of the law with fairness and compassion, without rendering asunder communities in the San Fernando Valley, which have common purpose and which have been connected for decades through common geographic, political, economic, and human service bonds. I am concerned that two of the current redistricting proposals, T1 and S2, propose to divide the Valley under three separate Supervisors, while relocating fully half of the current residents of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District to new Districts with new demographics, different relational networks, and most importantly, new Supervisorial offices with different policies and priorities.

Although I share many of the concerns expressed by others relative to the issues listed above, I will focus my comments upon the area which I know best, the Mental Health Service network in the San Fernando Valley. I have been President/CEO of the SFVCMHC for thirty (30) years, and we

currently operate 35 programs located in 24 separate facilities throughout the Valley. All of our programs provide culturally sensitive services, and all offer bilingual and bicultural staff from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Clearly the Center encourages and prizes diversity in all of its forms among its staff and the thousands of clients it serves each year. We provide services for clients from earliest infancy to older age, and although we offer the full range of mental health services, one area of specialization is in working with homeless adults suffering from severe and persistent mental illness.

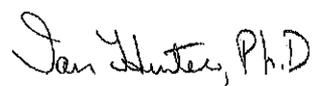
The SFVCMHC is an integral component of the current multi-tiered system of mental health services for the entire San Fernando Valley. The Valley has evolved within the current Supervisorial District boundaries as a discreet, well defined geographical unit with shared political leadership and guided by the policies/priorities of Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office. Because of the dedicated and committed efforts of scores of mental health professionals, consumers, and other stakeholders over the past 30 years, the San Fernando Valley area boasts a finely tuned, cohesive, integrated, and coordinated network of mental health services.

This network reflects the long standing personal and professional relationships between the CEOs and staff of the various agencies that coordinate their efforts to facilitate efficient inter-agency referrals and smooth continuity of care on a "Valley-wide" basis. This network has evolved as a true public/private partnership bonded together by a written Memo of Understanding which was forged 25 years ago to insure "seamless" inter-agency referrals, timely follow-up on clients who are being discharged from the Psychiatric hospital, and to insure the fair and balanced geographical distribution and accessibility of such essential services as inpatient beds; crisis evaluations; day treatment; partial hospitalization; outpatient treatment; wellness centers; client run centers; and occupational training programs. The Memo of Understanding also seeks to insure the "right mix" and balance of geographically accessible, culturally sensitive services blended into one Valley-wide integrated and coordinated system of care. As an integral component of the Valley-wide network of mental health services, the SFVCMHC has developed an effective system for the treatment of the homeless mentally ill clients which includes immediate shelter beds, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing- all of which have also been prioritized and supported by Supervisor Yaroslavsky.

My primary concern is that if there is a significant alteration of the geographical boundaries for the Third District such as is proposed in plans T1 and S2, and if the San Fernando Valley is segmented under three different Supervisorial offices, each with different policies and priorities, there would be potential for serious disruption in the Valley-wide balanced mental health system of care. As noted above, this system has been carefully developed by a broadly represented group of stakeholders over three decades of planning, design, and implementation. Without the current existing network of services, which facilitate referrals and linkage between agencies and between levels of intensity of care when a clients condition improves or worsens, many severely mentally ill residents of the Valley could easily "fall between the cracks in the system" and end up homeless on the streets once more, or turning to the hugely expensive and inefficient hospital emergency rooms. In short, the balanced system of services in the Valley could be seriously disrupted, and with significant realignment of District boundaries, the new Districts could well end up with excess service capacity for one type of service (e.g. hospital beds) and a deficit capacity for another (e.g. outpatient visits).

If the above scenario unfolds as described above, the newly drawn Districts will be pressured to embark upon the very time consuming, expensive, and disruptive process of realigning the internal resources of the District to essentially re-create what we already have developed for the San Fernando Valley - a balanced, cohesive, integrated, and effective system of care which has evolved over decades of negotiation, planning and implementation. I urge you, and the other members of the Board of Supervisors, to avoid massive displacement of current residents, and severe disruption of long established relationships and agreements, by adopting a more modest proposal for District boundary change which still meets the letter and spirit of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Hunter, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Hunter, Ph.D.  
President/CEO  
San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, Inc.