

From: Andy Summers [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2011 4:00 AM
To: CommServ
Subject: no redistricting please

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to oppose both the T1 and S2 redistricting plans. I am most concerned about the proposed division of the Santa Monica Mountains into several districts. This unique and complex ecosystem is intricately connected by watersheds, roads and the communities that have evolved within them. These communities share a common sense of place, which is extremely different from those along the coast further south. We have survived through floods, wildfires that not only create a sense of cohesiveness among humans, but also create a diverse ecosystem. While the Santa Monica Mountains is characterized by steep mountains, narrow canyons and scattered development criss-crossed as much by wildlife corridors as by a few freeways, the South bay is comprised of heavily developed suburban/urban areas, industrial and commercial centers served by heavily used transportation corridors. The Los Angeles County General Plan notes that over 20% of all federally listed endangered species are found in the county, and many of these rely upon the urban-wildland interface zone contained within the Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area.

A Summers

Belinda Barragan Testimony - Redistricting

Good Afternoon Supervisors, my name is Belinda Barragan and I am here on behalf of HOPE – Hispanas Organized for Political Equality and I am also a resident of the City of San Fernando.

HOPE is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy and education to benefit all communities and the status of women.

As HOPE's Director of Programs and Policy, I come into contact with numerous civil-minded women.

They are both Democrats and Republicans.

We sometimes have differing viewpoints on how best to improve our community.

But I think all of us are in agreement that Latinos, specifically Latinas deserve a fair opportunity to run for office.

We are not asking for anything more or less than anyone other group receives.

I am in support of the maps T1 and S2, because neither Supervisor Molina's T1 Map and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' S2 Map dilutes the voting power of any other minority group.

But the A3 Map does dilute voting power – of Latinos.

I respectfully ask that you follow the numbers, follow the law, and support a map with two Latino-opportunity districts.

I thank you for allowing me to voice my preference of what I would like my district to look like.

Thank you!

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

My name is Brad Davis, and I am a member of the Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance, for the City of Malibu.

The Alliance, lead by District 3 Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and County Forestry, works with public land managers, local governments like Malibu, and private utilities to address fire management issues in the Santa Monica Mountains.

As home to the entire Santa Monica Mountains Range, the Third District is no stranger to natural disasters, especially wildfires, and with the Supervisor's leadership, we have made huge strides in learning from, preparing for, and guarding against wildfires.

As an outgrowth of the Third District's preparedness policies, the Alliance seeks to address the singular challenges found in this unique Mediterranean ecosystem where chaparral is the most extensive native plant community, and the most potentially flammable.

As a collaboration of related public agencies, departments, and communities, we work to find solutions and resources for property owners and land managers to improve stewardship in the wildland urban interface, by integrating best management practices that will create defensible space while protecting wildlands.

A Road Map to Fire Safety --- How to Create Defensible Space in the Santa Monica Mountains, is an example of the Alliance working together to help create safer communities and protect natural areas by involving and educating stakeholders, sharing information, and locating and providing beneficial resources.

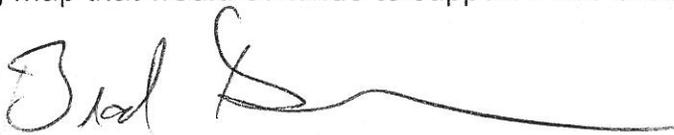
The mountain communities have found a leader in our Third District Supervisor who has made fire and disaster management planning and preparedness in the Santa Monica Mountains a top priority.

There is still much to be done. I urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt a redistricting plan that would not weaken these relationships by dismantling these kinds of collaborative partnerships. We urge the Board to recognize the compact, cohesive and connected world of emergency planning in the Santa Monica Mountains, and to adopt a redistricting map that would continue to support these critical efforts.

Thank you.

Brad Davis

Member Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance
City of Malibu Emergency Operations Manager.



From: The Stroms [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 8:55 PM
To: CommServ
Subject: redistricting

Do not fragment the Santa Monica Mountains!

Thank you.

Carl and Jennifer Strom

[REDACTED]
Topanga

ROWLAND HEIGHTS FOR PLAN A-3

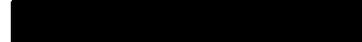
The focus of today's discussion should not be about any of the current Supervisors or their cultural identification. The decision you make about the new boundaries will be in effect long after the current Supervisors are termed out. The civil servants who form the backbone for their field offices will remain intact. If plans S2 or T1 are approved, we, as well as many other communities, will lose our relationships formed over the past 10 years with their respective field office staff. This is further amplified in plans S2 and T1 with the large number of communities split and moved. The county staff in the 4th district knows our community, has participated in our meetings, and has the necessary knowledge to make cost effective informed decisions for our future. To move us, and other communities, would in effect cut off our lifelines to county Board of Supervisors for many years until new lifelines are formed. In an era of deficit budgets, this is no time to start experimenting with new leadership.

In the June 2010 election in Los Angeles County, less than 20% of the eligible LA County registered voters voted. No matter where you draw the boundary lines, and what ethnicity makes up the district, the problem of non-voters will continue. It is naive to think that if one changes the composition of the boundaries it will have a predictable result on the outcome of the election. Exercising ones right to vote should be the focus, not the manipulation of who makes up the voting pool to achieve a subjective outcome.

The core of the Merit System, used by school boards, is individuals are hired based on MERIT and FITNESS, NOT on ethnicity, race or religion. In fact to consider these factors

are in violation of the Merit System. Therefore, why not elect a Supervisor based on Merit and Fitness, NOT boundaries? Boundaries should only be used to link communities with common needs and interest. We have that under Supervisor's Knabe Plan, A-3. T-1 and S-2 DOES NOT ACCOMPLISH THIS!


David Malkin


Rowland Heights, CA





September 1, 2011

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

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

On behalf of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA), we respectfully oppose Plans T1 and S2, which would split the San Fernando Valley between three districts.

The San Fernando Valley is a unique economically vibrant and ethnically diverse community with distinct needs from the Westside and downtown Los Angeles. The 1.8 million residents of the Valley come from across the globe and work in myriad industries, but hold a common identity as part of the San Fernando Valley.

Bounded by the Santa Susana Mountains to the north and west, Mulholland Drive to the south and the San Gabriel Mountains to the east, the Valley is also a distinct geographical area that cannot simply be piecemealed into majority Westside and downtown Los Angeles districts. The cities of Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Hidden Hills and San Fernando must be respected as unique municipalities that share these geographic boundaries.

Recognition of the Valley's individuality is far from new. The Los Angeles United School District and Los Angeles Police Department already divide the Valley into its own bloc. More than 400 nonprofit groups recognize the Valley's regional individuality and distinguish our communities and cities from the southern City of Los Angeles.

Plans T1 and S2 dismember established relationships between communities of interest in the Valley and their supervisors, jeopardizing progress in the crucial areas of transportation, land use and public safety. Valley residents and businesses have advocated for fair representation for decades, yet we are never given our fair shake. These plans directly conflict with our efforts and would significantly set back our goals.

We urge you to respect the Valley's unified voice for rightful representation by granting us districts that are either wholly within the San Fernando Valley or in which the majority of constituents are Valley residents.

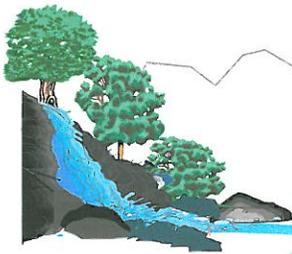
Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your support for plans that respect the distinctive communities of the San Fernando Valley.

Sincerely,

Daymond Rice
2011 Chair

Stuart Waldman
President

5121 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 203, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
Tel. 818.817-0545 Fax. 818.907-7934 <http://www.vica.com>



Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Inc.

Post Office Box 353, Agoura Hills, California 91301



The voice and conscience of the Santa Monica Mountains since 1968

September 6, 2011

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Supervisors:

The Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation in our 44th year as the strong and unwavering voice of the Santa Monica Mountains - representing more than 6000 property owners, 25 homeowner groups, and over 10,000 highly motivated and active voters - is vehemently **OPPOSED** to the **T1** and **S2** redistricting maps.

This last minute maneuver to carve up our 3rd District would have devastating and unmitigatable impacts on our Santa Monica Mountain communities.

We voted for and elected Supervisor Yaroslavsky to represent a cohesive and environmentally focused Third District. A sudden change that takes our elected representative away from us in the middle of his term threatens the ongoing projects we have been working on with the county. Forcing the rural Santa Monica Mountains into the same District as the urban and industrial south bay communities would not allow either region to elect a Supervisor who could focus on their distinct priorities. These gerrymandered plans put two decades of resource protection efforts and our land use preservation policies at great risk. We've seen a Fourth District like this before – 20 years ago – it didn't work then and it won't work now. We do not want to go back.

We respectfully urge you to reject the T1 and S2 proposals which disenfranchise our votes and destroy our united communities of interest.

Sincerely,

Kim Lamorie
President
LVHF



Northeast Valley Health Corporation

1172 North Maclay Avenue · San Fernando, California 91340-1500

(818) 898-1388 · Fax (818) 365-4031 · www.nevhc.org

"Caring for our community's health since 1973"

Kimberly Wyard, C.E.O.

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September 6, 2011

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Hall of Administration, Rm. 381
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Proposed Redistricting of Supervisorial Districts

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC), a nonprofit community health center with several licensed and accredited facilities throughout the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys is in support of Plan A3 as recommended by the L. A. County Redistricting Committee.

While NEVHC has facilities in two supervisory districts these sites are within distinct geographic areas in SPA2 where demographics show a demand for our services. We believe that Supervisory districts should not divide the San Fernando Valley, but be drawn to unite our community to be a stronger, economically and ethnically diverse community.

The super committee cannot ignore the growing Latino population. The fact that we have several Latino officeholders here in the San Fernando Valley that already serve our community, and serve it well, demonstrates that our current District 3 works well.

Please support Plan A3 and preserve the decades of cooperation and progress already established in the crucial areas of transportation, homelessness, land use and health care to name a few.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wyard, CEO

HEALTH CENTERS

Pacoima

12756 Van Nuys Boulevard
Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 896-0531

San Fernando

1600 San Fernando Road
San Fernando, CA 91540
(818) 365-8086

Santa Clarita

18533 Soledad Canyon Rd
Santa Clarita, CA 91351
(661) 673-8800

Sun Valley

7223 N. Fair Ave.
Sun Valley, CA 91352
(818) 452-4400

LAC - Canoga Park

7107 Remmel Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91305
(818) 340-3570

LAC - Valencia

25765 Valencia Boulevard
Valencia, CA 91355
(661) 287-1551

Pediatric Health & WIC Center

7138 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(818) 778-6240

From: Nigel Rick [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 7:49 PM
To: CommServ; BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com
Subject: redrawing borders

I urge the Board of Supervisors that Maps T1 and S2 be rejected. The San Fernando Valley and West Los Angeles need to be part of one District. Please keep our current boundaries.

Nigel Rick

[REDACTED]
Sherman Oaks 91401

From: Peter Gould [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2011 9:38 AM
To: CommServ
Subject: Redrawn Supervisor Districts

I'm a long time Valley resident in the third Supervisor's district. I've agreed with Supervisors Gloria Molina and Mark Ridley-Thomas on many issues -- but today I want to stress my extreme DISAGREEMENT with both of their plans for redrawn boundaries. Although racial balance is an important issue, this ISN'T the way to do it. Residents of the Valley have strong mutual interests -- gerrymandering us into new politically-driven crazy-quilt districts is a recipe for disaster.

Our Supervisors each already represent comically large districts -- this will only make a chronic problem much, much worse. Under these new districts I predict the the whole Valley secession movement will be reignited.

Please stop these misguided proposals in their tracks NOW.

Respectfully,
Peter Gould

[REDACTED]
Studio City, CA 91604

[REDACTED]

HONORABLE MEMBERS;

MAP T1 S2

DISMEMBERS ESTABLISHED COMMUNITIES OF DIFFERENT INTERESTS AND IS COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY. THE ADAPTION IS NOT ~~REQUIRED~~ BY LAW.

VOTING ACT REQUIRES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MINORITIES AND DOES NOT REQUIRE FOR A SINGLE GROUP CONSPIRE MORE THAN 50% OF VOTERS.

IT DISMEMBERS ESTABLISHED COMMUNITIES OF DIFFERENT NEEDS TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE.

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR DISTRICT BOUNDARIES LEAVES MILLIONS OF PEOPLE REPRESENTED BY A SUPERVISOR, FOR WHOM THEY NEVER VOTE.

I BELIEVE, THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO REDISTRICT AREAS, THAT PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES, INSTEAD OF RELYING ON ANTIQUATED ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT VOTING BEHAVIOUR OF DIFFERENT SEGMENTS OF ELECTORATE.

PLEASE, DO NOT VICTIMIZE US AND MINIMIZE OUR INVOLVEMENT AND DESIRE IN CIVIC DUTIES ON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL.

I AM A GOOD AMERICAN PATRIOT AND WISH YOU GOOD LUCK ON CORRECTING T1 S2.

SIDONIA LAY

ROWLAND HEIGHTS FOR A3

Census 2010: Race Data

	LA County	Rowland Hts	A3 District 4	S2 District 4	T1 District 1
White	50.3	10.3	30.2	15	13.9
Black or African Amer	8.7	1.4	6.6	4.7	3.3
Asian	13.7	59.5	18	16.6	14.8
Pac. Isl.	0.3	0.1			
Hispanic	47.7	27	43.3	62.4	67
Indian	0.7	0.1			

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06037.html>

<http://www.cubitplanning.com/city/16539-rowland-heights-cdp-census-2010-population>

<http://redistricting.lacounty.gov/>

If the Racial requirements of the Voting Rights Act are used to justify Plans S2 and T1, then the Asian/Pacific Islanders (API) should go to court for voting rights violations, if two Latino districts are established without an Asian/Pacific Islander one.

1. There are more API than African Americans, yet API have NO Supervisor representing them.
2. In T1 and S2 plans, Rowland Heights Asians are even further under-represented.
3. A3 has the closest racial profile of any of the plans to LA County's racial breakdown.
4. A3 most closely matches the Hispanic population of RH.

Using the same logic as Plans S2 and T1, then there should be two White districts in the County, since Whites still represent over 50% of the population. Then Whites and Hispanics would have 4 out of the 5 districts, leaving only one district to represent the rest. Hardly seems fair.

My argument is that communities in 2011 are diverse. We work together, interact socially, and collaborate on what's best for our communities. That is what is true in my community of Rowland Heights and that is true for me personally.

Setting up distorted boundaries to benefit one group, vis-a-vis all others, does not reflect the political and social reality of 2011 and sets up artificial race based barriers. Given that one plan must be chosen, A3 most closely reflects 2011's reality.

Teri Malkin

Rowland Hts., CA 91748



Stacy Sledge
Topanga, CA

Thank you Redistricting Commission. My name is Stacy Sledge. I'm President of the Topanga Town Council and I proudly live in District 3.

It is my privilege to serve on over a dozen local and County, committees & organizations---half of them dealing with emergency preparedness and response---aiding Topanga and all of its bordering communities.

Topanga, a somewhat isolated community of 15,000 people, cannot exist independently. Every single day, we share with our Mountain, Valley and Beach side neighbors--common services and programs for: emergencies, transportation, schools, environment, watershed, business, and social needs.

S2 or T1 will dismantle these sophisticated, inter-connected relationships that we have fought so hard to fund and develop, especially over the last 2 decades. **The worst part being, that during a community disaster---S2 and T1 sets our emergency programs up for failure and puts our lives at tremendous risk.** I implore you, please, please, protect us.
Reject S2 & T1.

(The official Town Council letter is on file).

Thank you,

Stacy Sledge

member of the following:

2010 Los Angeles County Volunteer of the Year, 3rd District

President, Topanga Town Council

Los Angeles County's TEM Task Force, Communications Co-Chair

T-CEP (Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness) Emergency Operations, Plans & Intel

Los Angeles County Arson Watch

Los Angeles County CERT

Los Angeles Water District Task Force

LASD Community Advisory Committee

Topanga Resident Emergency Access Program, Chairperson

OneTopanga.com (a community non-profit website), Editor-in-Chief

Topanga Historical Society



TOPANGA TOWN COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1085
Topanga, CA 90290

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission:

The Topanga Town Council urges the Redistricting Commission to keep our town of 10,000 residents connected with the communities that touch its boundaries on all sides. We encourage the Redistricting Commission to allow Topanga to continue to enjoy the fruits of the current and past districting plans that have been in place since 1991 & 2000 respectively, which allow our town to be completely and firmly planted in the surrounding communities. This will continue to ensure stability in shared projects and programs effecting our lifestyle, environment, livelihood, safety, education, growth and spirit.

The proposed district maps, S2 & T1 are grossly disruptive, tearing communities apart, rejecting the thriving diversity inherent within each District across Los Angeles County, **and** putting over 3.5 million people into Districts where they did not vote for their Supervisor.

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.

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. The Topanga Town Council urges you to come up with a map that respects the integrity and diversity of the existing Districts while also meeting the Federal Voting Rights Act criteria.

The Third District, as home to the entire Santa Monica Mountains range, is no stranger to natural disasters. Our communities have made huge strides in learning from, preparing for and guarding against wildfires, floods and other emergency conditions. Keeping the Santa Monica Mountains as the centerpiece of a compact district would help ensure political leadership that is sensitive to these issues.

S2 or T1 will dismantle the 3rd District's current, sophisticated, inter-connected relationships that we have fought so hard to fund and develop, especially over the last two decades. The worst being, that during a community disaster, S2 and T1 sets our emergency programs up for failure and puts our lives at tremendous risk.

Topanga was first settled in 1839 and has always been a unique, historic and isolated wildland community occupying 13,000 acres within the Santa Monica Mountains. However, Topanga does not exist independently. Our neighbors of Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades and Woodland Hills have played a significant role in the shaping of Topanga because of our similar interest--the Santa Monica Mountains.

In particular, the emergency issues faced by our mountain neighbors are as intimately intertwined as the natural surroundings. The fires, flooding, mud and rockslides that are part and parcel of this natural environment, don't start or end with a single community. They affect us all and require continued, joint cooperation and preparedness planning. Unlike grid cities where one area can be easily separated from another, the communities of the Santa Monica Mountains area have a closely connected and symbiotic relationship.

For example, the boulder that closed Topanga Canyon Boulevard in the 2005 winter storms, equally affected the commuters from the Las Virgenes and West San Fernando Valleys on their way to school and jobs in the Westside. Frequent emergency closures on PCH impact all of these communities because traffic is diverted through Topanga Canyon, the primary mountain connector between the SFV and the Westside. The 1993 Old Topanga Canyon/Malibu Fire roared through the Santa Monica Mountains to the sea, burning Topanga, and Malibu, and threatening Pacific Palisades and Calabasas. Since then, jointly prepared and pre-rehearsed evacuation and emergency preparedness exercises with our surrounding communities, municipalities, and our first responder agencies have made disaster response more effective and better managed.

On the local front, Topanga has many programs that integrate with surrounding communities:

CERT – The Topanga Certified Emergency Response Team is comprised of local volunteers that work in harmony with Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura Hills and West Hills CERT groups, both in cross-training and actual emergency response.

ARSON WATCH – Topanga's Arson Watch, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's program, works in tandem with the Calabasas and Malibu Arson Watch organizations during Red Flag and High Fire Hazardous conditions. The Arson Watch surveillance routes cross multiple municipal and jurisdictional boundaries across the entire Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and expand into Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Malibu, and Woodland Hills.

SCHOOLS – Beyond Topanga's local LAUSD Elementary Charter School, our youth continue their middle school and high school education in Malibu, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Calabasas, and San Fernando Valley located public school districts. For those pursuing higher education, community colleges in Santa Monica (SMCC), and the San Fernando Valley (Pierce Community College), and public universities including UCLA and California State University in Northridge, all offer advanced education opportunities in proximity to our community and are a distinct community of interest for all students.

ANIMAL RESCUE/LACODACC/ERT– During a wildfire disaster, Topanga's trained and certified all-volunteer animal rescue groups (e.g. Equine Response Teams, Topanga Animal

Rescue) are activated and work in harmony with the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care & Control, and rely on SFV and Las Virgenes Valley shelters where animals must be evacuated and/or treated. Pre-rehearsed evacuation plans with animal rescue organizations have been in existence for decades. LACO Agoura Hills Animal Shelter, Pierce College, and other small and large animal emergency centers are essential for the safe evacuation and care of our large and small animals during catastrophic disasters like a wildfire.

SENIORS – Topanga’s local senior organization, the Canyon Sages, has over 100 volunteers and members inside and outside of Topanga Canyon providing critical support to our aging community. Topanga, lacking its own dedicated senior center, relies upon senior programs offered in Santa Monica, Woodland Hills, Canoga Park and Calabasas to help aid and provide activities for our senior population. Access Services, Dial-a-Ride, and a County-sponsored summer Beach Bus, provide essential transportation for these Topanga seniors, a growing population.

T-CEP – Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness is an all-volunteer organization within Topanga that activates its Emergency Operation Center during a disaster. Established in 1994, after the devastating 1993 Old Topanga/Malibu Fire, T-CEP works collaboratively with various County emergency organizations and first responders to prepare, inform and educate residents in Topanga about potential disasters, and provide updated emergency information during a disaster for local and surrounding communities. The T-CEP EOC is self-activating, but works directly with Incident Command to provide vital, verified information to not only Topanga residents, but to surrounding mountain communities and their citizens, as well. In the 1996 Calabasas Fire, the T-CEP EOC Hotline operators received over 16,000 calls requesting status information on the Fire. Many of these calls came from Malibu citizens who did not, at the time, have their own EOC.

DRT – The Disaster Radio Team of Topanga is a group within T-CEP and is part of the Inter Op-22 Group, headquartered at the Los Hills Sheriff’s Station in Calabasas; and consists of the regions of Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, Oak Park, Westlake Village and Topanga. This alliance of communicators is critical when disasters strike. All government agencies have communication issues in the Santa Monica Mountains and often rely on the verified information collected and distributed by T-CEP and its DRT. During an emergency, the DRT is scheduled to update Topanga’s emergency status with DCS-22 at the bottom of every hour, whereby T-CEP is then able to pass critical information about needs or problems to the government agencies that can address them. And vice-versa. The information received, can be given out to the residents via T-CEP’s website, manned Hotline phone bank, and through T-CEP’s Neighborhood Network teams. The DRT has volunteers from Pacific Palisades, Calabasas, Malibu and Hidden Hills.

TEM TASK FORCE – The Topanga Emergency Management Task Force is, perhaps, the greatest example of ‘communities of interests’ integrating services and programs for the greater good of the mountain community. Authorized by the Los Angeles County Board of Directors to create community-based emergency management and preparedness plans for the unincorporated at-risk community of Topanga, government and community members began meeting in 2003 to develop emergency response strategies. The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide was the first product of this effort. Addressing preparedness and planning issues for all kinds of disasters, it was published by the County and distributed to over 10,000 residents. This Survival Guide is the “bible” by which Topanga prepares, plans, and exercises

its community for disasters. An essential component of the Survival Guide is the Topanga Zone Map that divides the Canyon into 9 “tactical zones”, and identifies Community Safety Areas, and Neighborhood Safety Areas within those zones to serve evacuees attempting to escape fire.

Another joint effort was the publication of “A Road Map to Fire Safety”, a collaboration of the TEM Task Force (disaster related public agencies, departments and communities) and the Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance to present solutions and resources for property owners and land managers to improve stewardship in the wildland urban interface. This Alliance helps create safer communities and protect the natural areas by involving and educating stakeholders, sharing information, and locating and providing beneficial resources.

Every year since the publication of the Survival Guide (and supporting materials), these evacuation strategies are tested in a Los County Fire Department-coordinated Topanga Emergency Exercise, working in conjunction with the Topanga Community, the LA County Fire Department, Sheriff’s Department, Animal Care & Control, CHP, LAUSD, Los Angeles OEM, LA City Fire and Police, plus State and National Parks, to prepare, protect and defend Topanga (and surrounding communities) in the event of a wildfire or other major disaster. It is imperative these ongoing relationships continue to practice and collaborate; integrating lessons learned from drills and actual disaster events. The TEM Task Force is mandated to meet within 30 days of any declared disaster to debrief and re-examine the effectiveness of their emergency response strategies. Lives depend upon this continued collaboration.

The Topanga Emergency Management Task Force is co-chaired by LA County OEM (Office of Emergency Management) and T-CEP, Topanga’s community, volunteer organization. Appointed members include: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor’s 3rd District, LA County OEM Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Public Works, LAUSD/Topanga Elementary School, LACDAC ERT, Topanga Town Council, Topanga Animal Rescue, American Red Cross, Arson Watch, CERT, Topanga Coalition of Emergency Preparedness, and Topanga Chamber of Commerce.

PARKS & BEACHES– The communities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake, Malibu, Topanga reside in a unique wildland/urban interface that includes Federal and State parklands and other publically owned open space under the umbrella of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). Topanga itself is completely surrounded by this parkland and offers a connection to surrounding cities via its roads and park trails. Topanga State Park is entirely within the Los Angeles city limits and is considered the world’s largest wildland within the boundaries of a major city. The park is bound: on the south by Pacific Palisades and Brentwood, on the west by Topanga Canyon, and on the east by Rustic Canyon.

Topanga State Park offers more than 24 trail entrances---from Topanga, Pacific Palisades, and Encino; and makes up 5% of the area of the City of Los Angeles. A local volunteer organization, the Topanga Canyon Docents offer field trip programs that are free to the public, schools, church and private schools in Simi Valley, San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the California State Legislature in 1980, to form an “interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public. The Conservancy

works closely with Topanga and surrounding communities to protect this area for future generations to enjoy.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a local government public entity established in 1985 pursuant to the Joint Powers Act. The MRCA works in cooperation with the Conservancy and other local government partners (including Topanga Emergency Management Task Force) in part, to participate in vital emergency planning processes, education programs and fire prevention awareness.

The Santa Monica Mountains is well-recognized as a community of interest by business groups who understand that the parks and public spaces, its creeks and beaches, are a major economic engine with over 30 million visitors each year, many of whom are regularly drawn from the nearby regions of the San Fernando Valley and the greater Westside communities. Topanga State Beach is just one area beach that is visited by locals and vacationers alike. Access to this beach is from PCH at Topanga Canyon Blvd (Malibu) and has direct handicap access onto the beach.

On the extended front, surrounding communities offer Topanga residents & businesses essential services and opportunities:

BUSINESS - Art & Entertainment Industry - Topanga's socio-economic traits and employment are in direct alignment with cities like Malibu, Calabasas, Pacific Palisades Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Studio City and Universal City. It is estimated that 60% of Topanga's residents work in the outlying communities. About 40% work in entertainment/art (or related) industries---tying them to areas beyond Topanga .

SHOPPING-ENTERTAINMENT – Given the limited shopping and entertainment opportunities within our town, Topangans rely upon stores in the surrounding communities for their day-to-day existence: groceries, clothes, supplies, services and entertainment. The San Fernando Valley has the most to offer both in variety and economical choices. Santa Monica offers unique products and services for our residents. Many outlining area businesses have one-to-one relationships with Topanga businesses, residents, seniors, low-income residents and our volunteer organizations. The Topanga Chamber of Commerce has spent years building bridges of commerce by offering memberships within and outside the Topanga community.

MEDICAL – With no major medical facility within Topanga, residents must rely upon the medical services outside the canyon: St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica, or the valley hospitals of West Hills, Kaiser and Northridge.

TRANSPORTATION – Topanga has no local or mass transit transportation service, which leaves some residents and employees totally dependent on outside area transportation programs. Dial-A-Ride, Access Service and Los Angeles County's Summer Beach Bus, along with the Expo Line, Orange Line and Blue Line are critical to connecting Topanga to the San Fernando Valley, the Westside and beyond. These integrated transportation services are vital to the livelihood and lifestyle of many of our residents, employees and visitors.

Topanga's Hwy 27 serves as an important transportation bridge from the Valley to the West side, serving 15,000 commuters per day.

CRIME & PATROL – The Las Virgenes area is a community of interest spanning the cities of

Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Hidden Hills, Topanga and other nearby unincorporated areas. These cities are all County "contract cities" and are served as a unit by the same Sheriff's Station, Fire Stations and County Services. Topanga is protected and served by the Lost Hills (Calabasas) Sheriff's Department and West Valley (Woodland Hills) CHP. The Topanga Town Council has worked hard to develop and maintain an effective, united working relationship with the Sheriff's Dept. and CHP; all of who agree that Topanga is a difficult community to protect, given our terrain, commuter traffic, and potential disaster situation. The Town Council, with support of these agencies has developed a Topanga Resident Access Card that enables these emergency responders to better assist local residents during a catastrophe.

In conclusion, Topanga's association with its surrounding communities is a harmonious, organic, symbiotic, living relationship whose supportive, collaborative and united effort has for many years, ensured the safety, social and economic programs we commonly share. Keeping us united with our neighboring cities will continue to give us the ability to share our environmental structure, community consciousness, educational commitment and personal lifestyle. The 1991 and 2000 districting plans have proved successful. Our request to the Redistricting Committee is to keep it this way. Please reject S2 and T1. Keep our 3rd district intact.

Respectfully submitted,

The Topanga Town Council

Stacy Sledge, President

Rebecca Goldfarb, Vice President

Tanya Starceovich, Secretary

Jacqui Benson, Treasurer

Becca Barkin, Friends of the Council

Mohan Joshi, Advisor to the Council

Anthony Hall, Advisor to the Council