

LYNNE B. HAIGH, M.S.W.

May 9, 2011
Mr. Curt Pederson
Chair, Boundary Review Committee
c/o Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Rm 383, Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Members, Boundary Review Committee,

I am writing to urge you to keep the small, but thriving unincorporated community of Topanga intact and connected on all sides with the cities and communities which are its neighbors. Topanga sits relatively in the middle of the compact 3rd District and is bisected by State Rt. 27, a busy commuter thoroughfare from the San Fernando Valley to Santa Monica and the Westside.

The 1991 and 2001 redistricting lines should be preserved as much as possible for 2011 and beyond. Under this system the residents of Topanga have been able to work beneficially with neighboring communities and within overlapping governmental jurisdictions to, among other things, secure advantageous environmental regulations; preserve, manage, and save parkland and open space; promote disaster preparedness and wildfire mitigation measures; and to work on education, economic, and transportation issues.

I have been a resident of Topanga for 35 years and as a very active community member have experienced firsthand the importance and significance of working collaboratively with adjacent communities. As the organizer of the Campaign to Save Topanga State Park in 2008 I worked with groups and individuals from Calabasas to Encino, to Westwood and Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades, to form a park advocacy group which was not only successful in keeping Topanga State Park open, but in helping to strengthen the bonds among state and federal park groups in the Santa Monica Mountains. As President of the Topanga Canyon Docents I have worked with surrounding communities and schools to promote naturalist education and to bring schoolchildren to Topanga State Park in order for them to experience and learn about our natural environment.

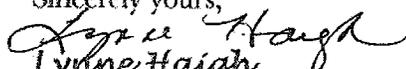
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For over 10 years I have been on the Board of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP) and the leader of T-CEP's disaster Hotline. I know how essential it is for us in Topanga to be connected to neighboring communities and organizations in order to coordinate disaster preparedness activities and wildfire mitigation measures. We live within the boundaries of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and are fortunate to daily experience the beauty of wild land. However, we also know how essential it is for us to be good stewards of this land.

As Topanga residents we want to continue to work with various government and community units to both preserve the environment and to make appropriate preparations for our homes and property to protect ourselves and surrounding communities in a disaster. Toward this goal, I have been a core member of my neighborhood Fire Safe Council which formed relationships with the county, state, federal government, and surrounding communities in order to mitigate the disaster potential of over 100 mature eucalyptus catching fire and blocking roads and keeping residents from being able to evacuate.

Thank you for considering these comments and for working to keep our community connected to the cohesive and compatible communities which surround it. This will benefit us all.

Sincerely yours,


Lynne Haigh