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California State Senate

SENATOR
FRAN PAVLEY
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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May 25, 2011

Mr. Curt Pedersen
Chair, Boundary Review Committee
c/o Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Room 383, Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
LA 90012

RE: LA COUNTY 2011 Redistricting Review

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

I am currently serving in the California State Senate. The LA County portion of District 23 has approximately 700,000 people and lies within LA Counties District 3. Prior to serving in the state legislature, I served four terms as a Mayor and Councilmember in the City of Agoura Hills. Growing up in Sherman Oaks, now living in Agoura Hills and having my district office in Santa Monica, I have experienced how these geographic areas of Las Virgenes, the Valley and the greater Westside share common values and interests. From transportation to public safety to environmental protection, I have seen first-hand how our communities work together to address regional problems and opportunities.

Thank you for considering this letter during your review of the 2011 County Redistricting Map for LA County. It is my understanding that the Boundary Review Committee will mostly focus on how to preserve cohesive districts that keep communities of interest together. I think it is of utmost importance to identify commonalities in districts that are not only based on their geographical area but also their shared community goals.

In regards to Los Angeles County District 3, the three adjacent geographically connected communities of interest, the greater Westside, the San Fernando Valley and the Las Virgenes Region, are bound together by the Santa Monica Mountains which run from the eastern edge of the district to the Pacific Ocean in Malibu and the Ventura County line. These regions are seen as a cohesive community for the following reasons:

- 1) This community of interest is wholly encompassed by the Santa Monica Bay to the south, the Ventura County line to the west and north, and the City of L.A. to the east. The two major communities of interest to the east, the San Fernando Valley and the

Greater Westside, comprise the rest of the 3rd Supervisorial District of LA County, creating a district with interlocking economic, environmental, cultural, and infrastructure interests, such as the transportation corridors that link the Valley to the Westside.

- 2) The Las Virgenes/Malibu Council of Governments (LVMCOG) was formed over a decade ago by the county "contract cities" of Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, and Malibu. Its purpose is to provide a vehicle to engage in regional and cooperative planning, and coordination of government services and responsibilities
- 3) The Santa Monica Mountain communities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, Westlake, Malibu, Topanga, and other areas of unincorporated LA County, 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). These communities, interconnected through their reliance on LA County public safety agencies, coordinate their emergency preparedness and response to wildfires, floods and earthquakes. Local neighborhood emergency preparedness groups like CERT, Arson Watch and Fire Safe Councils are active across the area.
- 4) These Communities have a common interest in working together to meet watershed wide Federal and State mandated water quality thresholds in both the regulated Malibu Creek Watershed and the Santa Monica Bay.
- 5) This area is also well-recognized as a community of interest by business groups who understand that the parks and public spaces of the Santa Monica Mountains, 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.

Thank you again for your consideration of these communities of interest. As you can see, these communities are joined not only by the Santa Monica Mountains, but by a variety of shared services and benefits. It is of great importance to the constituents of these regions to preserve their district as much as possible.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (916) 651-4023.

Sincerely,



Fran Pavley
Senate District 23