



Assembly California Legislature

ASSEMBLYMEMBER
TONY MENDOZA
FIFTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LA County Board of Supervisors Address Assemblymember Tony Mendoza

Thank you, Supervisors for allowing me the opportunity to speak before you.

I am Assemblymember Tony Mendoza. I represent the 56th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, Unincorporated South Whittier, Los Nietos and Buena Park.

I am here to speak in favor of Redistricting Plan S1. I urge you to support the S1 plan because the San Gabriel Valley deserves to have representation and a voice.

The status quo plan (A2) does not do anything for the San Gabriel cities because the coastal part of the district will continue to dominate the elections, and therefore, its representation.

Within my assembly district, my unincorporated areas suffer from inadequate levels of sheriff patrols, inadequate street maintenance, no curbs and in some areas no street lights.

Until you vote for a plan that will truly have a San Gabriel Valley district, we will continue to be neglected compared to coastal cities. We are two separate communities of interest.

For example, the San Gabriel cities are dominant members in associations like the L.A. County Contract Cities Association which meets monthly to discuss and advocate for municipal issues. We rarely see any coastal cities involved. We don't share many issues with them.

Same with water issues; coastal cities depend on the West Basin Water District and most San Gabriel cities are a part of the Central Basin Water District. Those two basins are at odds because the Central Basin feels that the ground water fees their customers are paying subsidize the costs of keeping the ocean water out of the underground aquifer in the West Basin district.

Just look at the geographic layout of the county. The San Gabriel Valley runs along the 605 fwy and branches out to the 10, 60, and 5 fwys and some of the 105 and 91 fwys. The Coastal Communities from Long Beach all the way north encompass the 405 fwy and PCH with some branching out along the 710, 110, 105, 134, and 10 fwys.

The San Gabriel Valley is a working class district sharing many socio-economic traits that truly integrate these cities and unincorporated areas, traits that do not define the coastal communities.

That's why I am here. To advocate for a San Gabriel Valley District that has been denied for too long.

I want a champion for the San Gabriel Valley (the east side) just like Zev Yaroslavsky champions for the west side—which will enjoy a subway to the sea. Maybe one day we can have a public hospital in the San Gabriel Valley.

