



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

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730 East Altadena Drive • Altadena, California 91001

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

July 5, 2011

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

On behalf of the residents of our community, Altadena Town Council strongly opposes any attempt to sub-divide Altadena between Supervisorial Districts or to move it from its present District. Either of these events would have significant and lasting negative effects on our community.

Splitting Altadena:

Established February 9, 1887, Altadena is one of the first recognized distinct communities in Southern California and has enjoyed a long history of organized civic involvement.

While not incorporated, Altadena has most of the attributes of a city except for political autonomy. We have our own Community Plan, Community Standards District, Town Council, Sheriff's Station, Community Center and Library District. We are also unified by numerous community organizations including Altadena Chamber of Commerce, Altadena Historical Society, Altadena Heritage, Arroyo and Foothills Mountain Conservancy, Altadena Branch of the NAACP and Altadena Sheriff's Support Group, to name a few.

Sub-dividing Altadena would markedly deteriorate the delivery of County services to the entire community and would greatly complicate the management, the sharing and the use of our resources, such as our Community Center, parks, trails and gardens.

Any imprudent and uninformed dividing of Altadena could threaten the more than two decades of successful efforts to unify our community across racial and socioeconomic boundaries. Anything that would subvert the great progress made by the hard work and effort by the residents and leaders of our community in this regard would be unconscionable.

Moving Altadena to another District:

Altadena has had a long and productive relationship with the Fifth District. Our Supervisor and his staff are providing us with a very high level of valued service, predicated on detailed and intimate knowledge of our community, our history, our values and of our problems. Under the best of conditions, this level of

service could not be replicated by new representation, in a time frame to allow pressing issues to be resolved, and with the prospect of the upcoming open seat election, it would not be provided for years.

Altadena has many important connections to other neighboring foothill cities and communities such as Pasadena, Sierra Madre, La Canada Flintridge and Crescenta Valley. We share various important interests such as water districts and rights, school districts, forest and trails conservancy, wild fire prevention, flood control and transportation issues. County residents with these important common issues and in most cases, common purpose, should be represented by a single, informed, and engaged Supervisor.

Moving Altadena to another District with distant offices, and a center of interest and experience that is far removed from our unique issues, would not only ill serve the residents of Altadena, but may well effectively disenfranchise them. It would also deprive them of the essential services the County is duty bound to provide on an equitable basis.

For an unincorporated community like Altadena, this County representation debate is not about political party or group identity politics, it is about the mundane. It is about streets, traffic, police and fire protection, land use and other important quality of life measures that must be provided by its political sub-division, the County. We are asking for, demanding and have every right to expect, that we have accessible, knowledgeable, informed and engaged representation to insure that those services are adequately provided.

Altadena is currently provided strong and fair representation in the Fifth District. There is no rational argument that can be made to change District assignment for Altadena, and we have no confidence that proposed changes would maintain the mandatory level of representation for Altadena.

We thank you for your service and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gino Sund, Chairman
Altadena Town Council

Cc: Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Fifth District