# Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>Community name</th>
<th>About the community</th>
<th>Nearby areas to include or not include</th>
<th>Other community information</th>
<th>Other public comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tieira Ryder</td>
<td>90066</td>
<td>How the West Was Saved</td>
<td>My community is primarily concerned about the well being of all residents. Our greatest need right now is housing that we can afford! Rent has increased by over 65% in a 10 year time period in SoCal, during that time the number of unhoused residents increased by over 50%. Question: Do the Supervisors oversee the city councils??? The county is just as much responsible for our current housing crisis as local sub cities are. We are asking that the Supervisors step in with assistance from the state, to challenge the FAA again for the Santa Monica airport space that belongs to Mar Vista and Venice residents as much as it does Santa Monica residents. We would like to request closure of the airport by early 2022, so that a walkable community that includes affordable housing can be developed for westside residents. <a href="https://htwws.org/santamonicaairport/">https://htwws.org/santamonicaairport/</a></td>
<td>Mar Vista, Venice, Santa Monica need to be all one district. We need coastal cities to work together.</td>
<td>Housing, Housing, Housing, that we can afford.</td>
<td><a href="https://htwws.org/santamonicaairport/">https://htwws.org/santamonicaairport/</a> <a href="https://www.change.org/CloseTheSantaMonicaAirport">https://www.change.org/CloseTheSantaMonicaAirport</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tieira Ryder</td>
<td>90066</td>
<td>How The West Was Saved</td>
<td>Affordable Housing, housing, and more housing! We need more safe walkable cities that are pedestrian, bike, and public transit friendly! The “redlining” of Santa Monica city has gone on long enough and the incorrectly zoned Santa Monica airport space belongs to Mar Vista &amp; Venice residents as much as it does Santa Monica residents. <a href="https://www.change.org/CloseTheSantaMonicaAirport">https://www.change.org/CloseTheSantaMonicaAirport</a></td>
<td>N/A We need the coastal cities working in alignment from Culver City to Santa Monica, Mar Vista, Playa Del Rey, and Marina Del Rey.</td>
<td>We are in desperate need of adequate affordable housing in our coastal cities! Poverty in all of LA County is at a all time high and it's very visible! Local cities like Santa Monica have been allowed to uphold illegal segregation as it relates to race &amp; class, that must END!</td>
<td><a href="https://www.change.org/CloseTheSantaMonicaAirport">https://www.change.org/CloseTheSantaMonicaAirport</a></td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>(See Attachment A-1.)</td>
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Dear Commissioners:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The City shares the Peninsula with the cities of Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills, and Rolling Hills Estates. The Peninsula is currently represented by the Fourth Supervisorial District.

The Peninsula cities share one school district, one library district, one local transit authority, one land conservancy, and frequently work together on areas of mutual interest such as emergency preparedness and public safety. The cities of Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, and Rolling Hills Estates additionally share a regional contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement, and the four cities contract with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes has been intimately tied to the coastal cities and communities of the South Bay region, including, but not limited to, the Peninsula cities, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and El Segundo many of which are within the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission. We share with our northerly South Bay neighbors a dependence upon a common transportation network for access to the rest of the Los Angeles region. We are primarily a residential community and share a common affinity and appreciation of the unique physical and cultural environment afforded by our location along the coast. Many of the prominent regional community organizations serve the area extending northward from Rancho Palos Verdes toward Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The City of Rancho
## Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

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<td>McKenzie Bright</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Palos Verdes considers itself to be an integral part of the South Bay, as evidenced by its active participation in the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG). Due to shared transportation, economic and cultural factors, the City would request to remain aligned with the South Bay cities – located generally west of the I-110 and I-405 freeways and south of LAX. We have appreciated the common representation this district has provided and would request that the City continue to be districted with the other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and with the South Bay. Images of maps showing the City’s, Peninsula’s, and SBCCOG boundaries are attached. Thank you for your efforts to draw the new district lines for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. We look forward to continuing to be represented alongside other South Bay cities in the new district. Sincerely, Eric Alegria Mayor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Ahn</td>
<td>90019 Koreatown</td>
<td>Koreatown is the largest Korean community outside of Korea. We are marked by sharp business acumen and strong entrepreneurship - so we mark all of our progress and advancement via the Korean small businesses that are prevalent in our community. We big contributors to the local economy, the Korean community needs a unified and strong voice that best I am in favor of expanding the Koreatown borders justified by the amount of Korean owned businesses and residents within the area. Currently, Koreatown is an ethnically diverse community (50% Latinx, 38% Asian, 12% Other) with a high concentration of Koreans and business owners. Koreatown is being represented by 3 different councilmembers - we need to be represented by 1.</td>
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### Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Broide</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(See Attachment A-3.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristina Dixon</td>
<td>90008</td>
<td>Crenshaw</td>
<td>Familia, arte, futbol, tiendas, comida</td>
<td>Me Encanto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sylvia</td>
<td>90744</td>
<td>Harbor Area</td>
<td>my family has lived in the harbor area/ Wilmington and Carson communities for generations, We've watched our community grow and I get to see this through pictures from my grandparents as we show my nieces and nephews how our community has changed. We are primarily Mexican, Mexican-American, Central American communities, as well Asian American, Pacific Islander communities and African-American, Black communities. We care about family sustaining wages with quality jobs that don't make us sacrifice our health. We care about quality affordable housing and resources to keep families housed. We want quality education for our public schools and the resources needed for students to attain higher education or skilled training. The Harbor Area has very different needs than the coastal beach cities on the westside from Playa Del Rey down to Redondo Beach, and further south to Palos Verde's. Wilmington and the Harbor Area is similar to Carson and West Long Beach. Please keep my community whole.</td>
<td>(See Attachment A-4.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Peng</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(See Attachment A-4.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duane Muller (UCLA)</td>
<td>90095</td>
<td>Westwood</td>
<td>-UCLA has a rich history and strong relationship with Westwood and its surrounding neighborhoods. Being -</td>
<td>- Having UCLA and Westwood split would dilute</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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| Christian trigueros | 91732    | LA CATHOLICS | Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing  
|                    |          |          | - Keeping UCLA and Westwood in one district allows for strong geographic representation while forging strong ties with the district’s representative. UCLA and Westwood share common concerns for the betterment and progress of the community and region.  
|                    |          |          | - Split would weaken these relationships as well as neighborhood and regional advocacy initiatives.  
|                    |          |          | Ongoing efforts and relationships between constituents and the Supervisiorial district representative.  
|                    |          |          | (See Attachment A-5.)  
|                    |          |          | (See recording for live comments.)  
|                    |          |          | We are a family of families. We are a city of saints. We are four million Catholics strong. We are the People of God of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We are LA Catholics.  
|                    |          |          | We, the People of God of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, accept our mission to continue the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Baptized into the Body of Christ, confirmed in the Holy Spirit, and nourished by the Word and Eucharist, we share Christ’s mission as priest, prophet and servant kings. We are one with the Catholic Church throughout the world, in communion with the pope.  
|                    |          |          | With the pastoral leadership of our Archbishop, we collaborate to live and proclaim the gospel. Christ announced the reign of God. We are the instrument of this reign in the world. We commit ourselves to build a community of faith and love. With Christ, we bring good news to the poor. We commit ourselves to eliminate the many faces of poverty in our midst—spiritual, economic, and moral. With Christ, we uphold the dignity of human life. We commit ourselves to cherish each person and to be faithful stewards of God’s creation. With Christ, we affirm the bonds that  
|                    |          |          | The Saintly Beginning of an Archdiocese Named for Mary and the Angels  
|                    |          |          | In 1814, “La Placita” was the very first Roman Catholic Church built in Los Angeles. The first Church in Alta California was made up of 21 missions, three pueblos, four presidios and multiple asistencias. There was a plan behind the use of each. We can trace these foundations (in a more or less north to south order) along El Camino Real.  
|                    |          |          | We are PARISHES  
|                    |          |          | 288 parishes  
|                    |          |          | 30 missions and chapels  
|                    |          |          | 16 Eastern Rite Catholic Churches  
|                    |          |          | We are SCHOOLS  
|                    |          |          | 214 elementary schools  
|                    |          |          | 51 high schools  
|                    |          |          | 73,750+ students enrolled  
|                    |          |          | We are COMMUNITY  
|                    |          |          | 4,349,267  
<p>|                    |          |          | as stated in your commissions priorities of a community of interest is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interest that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties incubants or political parties. Let us keep in mind the Violations of Human rights and Constitutional rights that the redistricting commissions in the past has committed and as a resolution recognize our community and jurisdictions of our parishes as a sanctuary for all our people to recover and renew their faith and unite all the Nations and |</p>
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<td><strong>unite us. We commit ourselves to remove the</strong></td>
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<td><strong>barriers that divide. We dedicate our parish</strong></td>
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<td><strong>communities and our schools, institutions,</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ministries, and organizations to fulfill this</strong></td>
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<td><strong>mission under the loving patronage of Mary,</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Queen of the Angels.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Church of Our Lady Queen of the Angels, known as “La Placita” was built in 1814 as the first Church in the City of Los Angeles, which is an abbreviation for the full name “El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles,” The City of Our Lady Queen of the Angels. While ‘La Placita’ is the first Church in Los Angeles, the San Gabriel Mission, built in 1771 in the present City of San Gabriel, was the first Church built in our Archdiocese, predating the birth of our country. San Gabriel mission was home to the recently canonized St. Junipero Serra, a Franciscan missionary who made his way to California through Mexico from Spain. We see the Franciscan influence across our Archdiocese in the names of the streets, cities and</td>
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Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

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<td>neighborhoods we call home.</td>
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<td>Spiritually, we look to St. Junipero as a founder of our Church in Los Angeles, our state and our country who began his missionary efforts with a visit to the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, in Mexico City. We have the special privilege to venerate Our Lady in front of a relic of the Tilma, just as St. Junipero did, in the Tilma Chapel of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.</td>
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<td>Today, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles comprises three counties in the southern part of the State of California: Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The area extends from the northern county line of Santa Barbara County, near the city of Santa Maria, to the</td>
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<td>southern county line of Los Angeles County. It covers 8,762 square miles (22,430 square kilometers) of territory. The total Roman Catholic population, as of 2005, stands at 4,349,267 people living among a total population of 11,258,600. There are 288 parishes located in 120 cities throughout the Archdiocese. There are 30 missions and chapels and 16 Eastern Catholic churches. In all, there are a total of 214 Catholic elementary schools and 51 Catholic high schools. Together they comprise one of the three largest school systems in California in either the public or private sector. Ethnic services in a very culturally mixed environment are offered to 72 different groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Community of Interest</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Payne</td>
<td>90004</td>
<td>LGBTQ+ Community of Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Petrlulas Nissman</td>
<td>90290</td>
<td>Topanga 90290</td>
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that likely comes from the Chumash language.[6] It was the western border of their territory, abutting the Chumash tribe that occupied the coast from Malibu northwards. Bedrock mortars can be found carved into rock outcroppings in many locations.

Topanga was first settled by Mexicans in 1839.

Topanga is a census-designated place (CDP) in western Los Angeles County, California, United States.[2] Located in the Santa Monica Mountains, the community exists in Topanga Canyon and the surrounding hills. The narrow southern portion of Topanga at the coast is between the city of Malibu and the Los Angeles neighborhood of Pacific Palisades. As of the 2010 census the population of the Topanga CDP was 8,289.[3] The ZIP code is 90290 and the area code is primarily 310, with 818 only at the north end of the canyon. It is in the 3rd County Supervisorial district.* -Wikipedia

COMMENT: Topanga, from the mountains to the sea, was a bridge between cultures and peoples well before the settlers came. The Tongva and Chumash tribes, one from the valley to the north, the other from the sea below the canyon met inside the canyon, trading goods inside the canyon at the center point where Old Canyon Creek and Topanga creek meet, where on the ground above, remnants of a village have been found. Topanga remains a bridge today for all of greater Los Angeles. Surrounded by state and conservancy parkland, trails for hiking, visiting and enjoying the public SMM's wildlands and the beaches below attracts millions of people annually, beachgoers and hikers alike. What I love about my community is its sharing spirit and passion for keeping nature wild, and its respect west coast of Los Angeles County. The watershed area drains to the Pacific Ocean via multiple creeks including Topanga Canyon, Malibu Creek, Zuma Canyon Creek, and Corral Canyon Creek. Municipalities that fall within the boundaries of this Watershed Area include: Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, Malibu, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, and Calabasas.

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area is estimated to receive up to $1.8 million annually to fund regional projects and programs.

Regional Program funds for the Watershed Area are programmed by the Watershed Area Steering Committee comprised of local stakeholders from agencies, municipalities, and could be called away...will there be a recording? (See recording for live comments.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Community of Interest: Healthy Water Quality in our creeks, and beaches to the sea. This DPW/Watershed Management Planning area was established to create projects and programs that comply with the NPDES/Municipal Stormwater permit requirements for compliance with water quality regulations promulgated by the EPA and the State Water Quality Board. It is essential that</th>
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Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

Topanga Creek Watershed, a major Santa Monica Mountains/Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watershed be kept whole within this water quality and compliance area for the efficacy of regulatory compliance within the network of communities continuing to work collaboratively with the county and state on seeing projects that will clean up and enhance the quality of the mountain's water flowing to the public's beaches and playgrounds. It's the same bay each watershed is draining into.

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area is located on the west coast of Los Angeles County. The watershed area drains to the Pacific Ocean via multiple creeks including Topanga Canyon, Malibu Creek, Zuma...
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<td>Canyon Creek, and Corral Canyon Creek. Municipalities that fall within the boundaries of this Watershed Area include: Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, Malibu, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, and Calabasas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area is estimated to receive up to $1.8 million annually to fund regional projects and programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Program funds for the Watershed Area are programmed by the Watershed Area Steering Committee comprised of local stakeholders from agencies, municipalities, and community members from within the Watershed Area. The Steering Committee will meet regularly to develop funding plans and recommendations to</td>
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Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

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<th>provide water quality, water supply, and community enhancement benefits to the region. Available meeting details are below.</th>
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<td>2) Unincorporated (UA) A Community of Interest: Communities in the Santa Monica Mountains include the town of Topanga on the eastern boundary of the UA, from the Santa Monica Bay/PCH north 9.5 miles to the watershed summit and down into the SFV culminating at the LA City Line just south of Mulholland Drive in Woodland Hills. These county unincorporated mountain and canyon neighborhoods and communities in the Santa Monica Mountains continues north-west from Topanga State Beach (and from</td>
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<td>Sunset Mesa at Coastline), to the Ventura County line running between the contract cities of Malibu to the south, with Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village on the UA north boundary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNINCORPORATED AREA CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES ARE DIRECTLY served by COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICES... Fire, Building and Safety, Public Health Regional Planning, among them, which are housed in a LACO One Stop Center created in the mid-2000's to consolidate their related constituent services in one stop instead of having citizens in this vast area have to go to 4 different offices. The Lost Hills Sheriffs Station is responsible for law enforcement in the</td>
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Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

| UA area. Their representative reports monthly to the Topanga Town Council. West Valley CHP also reports to the Council each month, as they are responsible for traffic enforcement on all county roads and state highways in the UA areas: PCH/SR 1 and TCB/Topanga Canyon Blvd/SR27; Topanga and its contiguous UA neighborhoods and communities in the SMMs and on the Coast work hand-in-glove with Caltrans as well, collaborating on safety measures, traffic safety and environmental protection while maintaining fire safety and vegetation management without the use of pesticides along these State transportation corridors inside the sensitive habitat areas of the SMMs. Keeping connected unincorporated |
Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

communities in the same shared Supervisoral District promotes continuity of service, shared land use and environmental protection values including the all important Planning areas designated by the SMMLCP (Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan, adopted in 2014, and the NAP North Area Plan, recently updated to model the LCP protections,) which regulate zoning in the Santa Monica Mountains UA. Protecting the local environment from over-development, stewarding the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains is of utmost importance to all residents of this region and has a very long history. Most of the public lands in the SMM’s National Recreation Area that have made things like Topanga State Park a reality
Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

are because of volunteers, activists and advocates, throughout the past 4 decades working with their representatives to preserve and protect these wildlands for all.

3) COALITION COMMUNITY OF INTEREST: Emergency Management, Prevention, Preparation, Recovery Community of Interest.

Topanga is located in an extreme high-severity fire zone, as are all communities and contract cities within the National Santa Monica Mountains Recreation area. Ramped up planning and coordination with our first responder’s over the last 2 decades has resulted in the establishment of an emergency planning model entity called
Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

the Topanga Emergency Management Task Force which is a LACO Board appointed Task Force.
"The mission of the TEM Task Force, a partnership of designated public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community organizations is to ensure the sustainability of emergency management efforts and strategies for the Los Angeles County unincorporated area of Topanga. The Task Force oversees the coordination and communication among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the community to improve preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery. I will develop, review and monitor community-based emergency plans, facilitate
emergency planning exercise, ensure community involvement and educational outreach, and evaluate and update emergency plans after a disaster."

The TEM Task Force was first established as a BOS appointed Steering Committee in 2002 to develop a model of community-based emergency planning in collaboration with first responders that could be adapted in other fire-threatened communities. Once the model "Topanga Disaster Survival Guide" was completed and distributed to all residents, the Steering Committee became an official ongoing working Task Force (2005). One of the most important outcomes was the designation of "Evacuation Zones" 1-9 that have been used repeatedly during fires and other
emergencies, to notify, communicate and direct evacuation routes during an emergency. There is only one through way in and out of Topanga and that is on Topanga Canyon Blvd/SR 27 between the SFV/Woodland Hills and PCH; coordinating evacuation and emergency response along this 2-lane highway is essential for life safety. The model creating evacuation zones is now being developed in the City of Malibu, and the UA of Sunset Mesa contiguous to Topanga on the east side has now been assigned a Zone 10 number, and recently participated in the Topanga Town Council and TEM Task Force Virtual Drill a week ago. Several hundred local residents participated in that virtual drill. It is critical for the
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<th>Protection of life and property that Topanga be kept whole and not divided between two different Supervisorial Districts, nor separated out from the larger region of communities joined in many civic efforts and partnerships.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Before the 1990-1 redistricting, Topanga and the unincorporated area of the SMMs were divided between 2 different Supervisoral (4 &amp; 5) Districts. This caused very disjointed and often conflicting service to the point that Topanga even investigated incorporating as a city, but could not meet the threshold required with really no significant commercial enterprises to add to the tax base, and no community desire to significantly change that. Subsequently, with the 1990-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Pugliese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Amador</td>
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<td>My community lives in apartments, rental homes, and mobile homes, of which have increasingly begun to hoard main streets. It's also very typical to see a whole family living in a small single-family home. My community of South LA is predominantly black and brown (latinx, immigrant-based) and Other than English, most of the residents here speak Spanish. Recently there has been an increase of gentrification happening especially in the Crenshaw area which has displaced residents. Many are facing the poverty cycle. We have Libraries like Ascot Branch Library, Hyde Park Miriam Matthews Branch. The schools in my community are HIP Academy Elementary school, Raymond Av, El Camino College, Compton Community College, John Muir, kipp empower academy, kipp academy of opportunity. The 110, 10, and 405 freeways run along the edges of my community. The main streets used here are Florence, Figueroa, Crenshaw, Jefferson Blvd. Though my mom considers it unsafe, a lot of students take the Metro Blue line, bike or walk to get to school. Cars are also used to get around the area and to work.</td>
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| Topanga Town Council - Carrie Carrier | 90290 | Topanga (in the Santa Monica Mountains) | wildfire prevention, natural resource protection, watershed protection, habitat conservation | Yes, the other Santa Monica Mountain communities, neighboring coastal towns, and our sister cities (e.g. Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Malibu, Pacific Palisades) | - | I have attached a separate letter | *(See Attachment A-6.)*  
*(See recording for live comments.)* |
Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

Attachment A-1 begins next page.
July 12, 2021

Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission
c/o KH Consulting Group
P.O. Box 56447
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

ATTN: Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough, Ph.D., Executive Director

The attached letter and materials are respectfully submitted by the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC), as authorized by the WNC Board at its meeting of July 8, 2021.

For the information of the Commission, background information about the WNC is included as an attachment to this letter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Terri M. Tippit
Chair

cc: Board Members, WNC
July 12, 2021

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
c/o KH Consulting Group  
P.O. Box 56447  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

ATTN: Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough, Ph.D., Executive Director

This letter is respectfully submitted by the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC)\(^1\), pursuant to a motion (attached) that was adopted by the WNC at its meeting of July 8, 2021. In addition to this letter, a WNC representative will provide formal public comment at one or more of the public hearings being scheduled by the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission (LA Country CRC). The WNC is aware that, according to the LA County CRC website\(^2\), the proposed date for the public hearing focused on Zone H (in which the WNC communities are located) is Thursday, August 19, 2021.

The background regarding the boundaries and composition of the Westside Neighborhood Council is provided in the attachment.

It is acknowledged that this letter is being submitted prior to the release of U.S. Census data that will provide the statistical data that will inform the larger county-wide issues to be evaluated by the LA County CRC. Nonetheless, this letter is intended to familiarize the LA County CRC with: (1) the request; and (2) suggestions of the WNC as you begin that evaluation process and, subsequently, develop the proposed new map boundaries for the five county districts for the next decade. The WNC will, of course, provide additional thoughts once those proposed boundaries have been released to the public for comments.

\(^1\) [http://wncla.org](http://wncla.org)

\(^2\) [https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/](https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/)
LA COUNTY CRC CRITERIA

The stated criteria adopted by the LA County CRC and posted on the LA County CRC website are integral to the WNC statements set forth later in this letter. The three (3) criteria of specific interest to the WNC are highlighted.

**LA County CRC Criteria**

*District lines will be adopted using the following criteria in order of priority:*

1. *Each district shall be reasonably equal in total resident population to the other districts, except where deviation is required to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 or allowable by law.*


3. *Districts shall be geographically contiguous.*

4. *The geographic integrity of city, local neighborhood, or community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division.*

5. *To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with numbers 1-4 above, districts shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness.*

Besides the above criteria, districts shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

**WNC REQUEST—PRIORITY**

*The priority request of the WNC is that the entirety of the WNC neighborhood/business areas (see attachment) is located within the same county district, reversing the ill-advised decision made after the 2010 census that divided the WNC neighborhood communities – and, in particular, two of the seven HOAs that comprise the WNC -- between District 2 and District 3. This request is consistent with criteria # 3, # 4 and # 5 above.*
The redistricting decisions made by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors after the 2010 census included a determination that the boundary line between District 2 and District 3 would be the EXPO line right-of-way. This decision had the practical effect of dividing the WNC communities into two parts, with significant portions of two of the seven HOAs in the WNC area being assigned to District 2 and the remainder to District 3.

The placement of the entire area of all seven HOAs that comprise the WNC within the same County district would be consistent with criteria # 3, # 4 and # 5 above.

**WNC OBSERVATION – OVERALL REDISTRICTING**

The WNC acknowledges the enormity of the task assigned to the LA County CRC, as a result of SB 958 (approved by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Brown in 2016), to decide upon the specific boundary lines for the five County Districts to serve a countywide population of more than 10.0 million, with an approximate allocation of more than 2.0 million residents per county district.

The WNC acknowledges the importance of the entire panorama of concerns for the various regions of the largest county in the U.S. The WNC believes that the LA County CRC should look at the entirety and similarity of the concerns facing our westside communities, including the communities of West Los Angeles, Westdale, Sawtelle, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades as well as Westwood/North Westwood, Holmby Hills and Bel-Air. The WNC strongly requests that the WNC southern boundary (National Blvd./Santa Monica Freeway) – not the EXPO Line right-of-way – be the southern boundary for a possible reconstituted county district. Having a single county district established (i.e., drawn) to serve as an umbrella of these communities south of the Santa Monica Mountains (in the northwest section of the overall coastal plain) would, in our opinion, would fulfill criteria # 4 and # 5 above.

Further, the WNC requests the LA County CRC to recognize the unity of interests served by the entire area of the WNC. The historical fact is that the core sections of the WNC area – together with the Westwood/North Westwood communities adjacent to the WNC to the north -- were established in the 1920s-1940s period as the anchor to the north – UCLA – began its evolution. Many of the residents of the WNC area have had direct connections to UCLA (as faculty, staff and alumni/ae). Due to that common bond, the WNC area is known for having a cohesive and holistic approach to its common interests – economic, commercial, cultural, educational and more. Consequently, placing all of the WNC area – together with Westwood/North Westwood -- in the same county district would be fully consistent with criteria # 4 above.
As noted earlier, this letter is being submitted prior to the availability of U.S. census data that will be integral to the LA County CRC discussions. We look forward to having the opportunity in the future to provide further comments once that the population and mapping datasets are publicly available and, further, once proposed boundaries have been suggested by the LA County CRC for the county districts.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter.

Sincerely,

Terri M. Tippit
Chair, Westside Neighborhood Council

cc: Board Members, Westside Neighborhood Council

Attachments (3)

1. WNC Motion adopted on July 8, 2021
2. Background information regarding the WNC
3. Current Placement of WNC area in County Districts
MOTION REGARDING REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS four different public entities are currently engaged in redistricting efforts following the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census;

WHEREAS the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission is considering new boundaries for the 15 City Council districts;

WHEREAS the Los Angeles Unified School District Redistricting Commission is considering new boundaries for the seven (7) districts of the Los Angeles Unified School system;

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission is considering new boundaries for the five (5) County supervisorial districts; and

WHEREAS the California Citizens Redistricting Commission is considering new boundaries for: (a) the 50+ U.S. House of Representative districts in California; (b) the 40 California State Senate districts; (c) the 80 California State Assembly districts; and (d) the four (4) California State Board of Equalization districts.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Westside Neighborhood Council hereby approves the following motion in regard to these efforts:

1. THAT the highest priority request to be submitted by the Westside Neighborhood Council to each of the aforementioned entities is that the entirety of each and every residential neighborhood and business area within the Westside Neighborhood Council should be assigned on an integrated basis to the same, i.e., single, district, with no subdivision of any portion of the Westside Neighborhood Council between two or more districts being considered by the entity;
2. THAT an additional priority of the Westside Neighborhood Council be also to request that each entity, in its deliberations regarding boundaries to be established, consider the common interests of the area covered by the Westside Neighborhood Council with other neighborhoods to the north, including Westwood/North Westwood, Westwood Village, Bel-Air and Holmby Hills, as well as the neighborhoods located to the west, including, but not necessarily limited to, the Westside Village/Westdale/West Los Angeles, Sawtelle, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades communities;

3. THAT each of the four redistricting entities listed above be asked, in its deliberation regarding boundaries, to recognize the importance of maintaining a cohesive and holistic approach for the common interests -- economic, commercial, cultural, educational -- of the aforementioned communities, acknowledging that these communities have in large part been influenced by the faculty, staff, students and alumni/ae of UCLA (and their families) wishing to live in close proximity to the Westwood campus since its opening in 1929; and

4. THAT the Chair of the Westside Neighborhood Council be authorized to: (a) transmit this motion, together with a specific description of the residential communities and business areas that comprise the Westside Neighborhood Council, to each of the forementioned redistricting entities by formal communication; and (b) provide additional public comment on behalf of the Westside Neighborhood Council at any public outreach session or public comment meeting conducted by any or all of such entities.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Westside Neighborhood Council at its regular meeting of July 8, 2021.
Background re The Westside Neighborhood Council

The Westside Neighborhood Council is a City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council established pursuant to City of Los Angeles Charter Measure 1 that was approved in the City election of June 1999. The most recent bylaws for the WNC were approved on February 2, 2021.

The boundaries of the WNC are defined in Section 1 of the bylaws:

I. **NORTH** by Santa Monica Boulevard;

II. **EAST** by a border including the properties fronting on the eastern side Century Park East from Santa Monica Boulevard to Pico Boulevard then westerly along Pico Boulevard then southerly along Motor Avenue then along Monte Mar Drive southeasterly then southerly along Anchor Avenue extending past Anchor Avenue’s cul-de-sac to connect with Club Drive until Club Drive connects with National Boulevard;

III. **SOUTH** by a border of National Boulevard extending from the San Diego Freeway (405) to Overland Boulevard, then southerly along Overland Boulevard to the Santa Monica Freeway (10), then easterly along the Santa Monica Freeway (10) to the National Boulevard exit; and

IV. **WEST** by the San Diego Freeway (405).

The residential interests of households located within the WNC boundaries are represented by WNC seats filled by representatives of the following seven (7) homeowner associations, approximately shown on the first of the two attached City of Los Angeles maps:

**North of Pico Blvd:**
1. Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. HOA (WNC seats 7, 18)
2. Overland Avenue Community HOA (WNC seats 7,18)
3. Century Glen HOA (WNC seat 10)
4. Century City Residential areas (WNC seat 11)

**South of Pico Blvd.:**
1. West of Westwood HOA (WNC seat 8)
2. Westwood Gardens Civic Association (WNC seat 9)
3. Cheviot Hills HOA (WNC seat 12)
4. California Country Club Homes Association HOA (WNC seat 13)
The interests of **for-profit business** entities located within the WNC boundaries are represented by seven WNC seats filled by representatives from the areas shown on the second of the two attached maps (WNC seats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19).

The interests of **non-profit and other entities** located within the WNC boundaries are represented by four WNC seats filled by representatives appointed by local religious institutions (WNC seat 14), schools (WNC seat 15), other non-profit organizations (WNC seat 16) and at-large concerns (WNC seat 17).
Attachment A-2 begins next page.
July 20, 2021

Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission
P.O. Box 56447
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

SUBJECT: City of Rancho Palos Verdes Community Profile

Dear Commissioners:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The City shares the Peninsula with the cities of Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills, and Rolling Hills Estates. The Peninsula is currently represented by the Fourth Supervisorial District.

The Peninsula cities share one school district, one library district, one local transit authority, one land conservancy, and frequently work together on areas of mutual interest such as emergency preparedness and public safety. The cities of Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, and Rolling Hills Estates additionally share a regional contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement, and the four cities contract with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes has been intimately tied to the coastal cities and communities of the South Bay region, including, but not limited to, the Peninsula cities, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and El Segundo many of which are within the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission. We share with our northerly South Bay neighbors a dependence upon a common transportation network for access to the rest of the Los Angeles region. We are primarily a residential community and share a common affinity and appreciation of the unique physical and cultural environment afforded by our location along the coast. Many of the prominent regional community organizations serve the area extending northward from Rancho Palos Verdes toward Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The City of Rancho Palos Verdes considers itself to be an integral part of the South Bay, as evidenced by its active participation in the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG).

Due to shared transportation, economic and cultural factors, the City would request to remain aligned with the South Bay cities – located generally west of the I-110 and I-405 freeways and south of LAX. We have appreciated the common representation this district has provided and would request that the City continue to be districted with the
other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and with the South Bay. Images of maps showing the City’s, Peninsula’s, and SBCCOG boundaries are attached.

Thank you for your efforts to draw the new district lines for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. We look forward to continuing to be represented alongside other South Bay cities in the new district.

Sincerely,

Eric Alegria
Mayor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

cc:  Rancho Palos Verdes City Council and City Manager
     Palos Verdes Estates City Council and City Manager
     Rolling Hills City Council and City Manager
     Rolling Hills Estates City Council and City Manager
Attachment 1: Map of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Attachment 2: Map of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, Including Peninsula Cities\(^1\)

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\(^1\) Peninsula Cities are highlighted in green.

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The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) is a joint powers authority of 16 cities and the County of Los Angeles that share the goal of maximizing the quality of life and productivity of the South Bay region. Our members are Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance, and the Harbor City/San Pedro/Wilmington communities of the City of Los Angeles, along with the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles District 2 and 4.
Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

Attachment A-3 begins next page.
July 20, 2021

The Honorable Co-Chairs & Members
Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission
c/o KH Consulting Group
P.O. Box 58447
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

Via email: ghartsough@crc.lacounty.gov

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is written to provide input for your consideration related to the redistricting task before you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd Homeowners' Association (WSSM) located on the westside of the City of Los Angeles.

With boundaries spanning a broad area from Santa Monica Blvd to Pico Blvd., and from Beverly Glen to Sepulveda Blvd., our volunteer leadership works diligently to represent the interests of residents in more than 3600 single-family homes and condominiums. Our community was developed by the Janss Brothers to provide housing for the staff and faculty of the new UCLA campus. The original homes in this area were built in the late 1920’s/early 1930’s. It is interesting to note that one of our streets was named after one of the Janss Brother’s daughters, Patricia (Patricia Avenue). The WSSM area falls within the boundaries of the city’s Westside Neighborhood Council and our area is represented by two (elected) residential seats on that board.

Since its inception in 1971, WSSM has worked to educate and to activate community members to become involved in their/our neighborhood and to build a sense of community which is so vitally important in a city as large as ours. Many of our residents work at UCLA; UCLA also serves as a major source of medical care for our constituents. Our multi-family zoned areas of the community contain both condominiums and apartments with many housing UCLA students and staff.

WSSM volunteers are devoted to maintaining and improving the quality of life in our community by ensuring that elected officials hear our voice, that city services are provided to our constituents, and that members are aware of city activities/resources. We understand that we are a part of a larger city and of our need to be a part of finding solutions to the larger challenges before us. We are both hopeful and wary, concerned that development be done sensitive to existing uses and with adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population.
In terms of redistricting, the WSSM Board of Directors:

- Proposes our community be grouped with associated communities that have similar interests and concerns (as noted above and below);
- Supports efforts by the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC) and its affiliated HOAs to keep WNC communities within a single County Supervisorial District; and
- Strongly prefers that our HOA and WNC-related associations be grouped with neighborhoods north of Santa Monica Blvd and Wilshire Blvd. due to our historical, current and long-standing ties with the UCLA campus and the Westwood Village campus community. We participate in many UCLA-based activities and volunteer at a number of UCLA facilities and programs (Fowler Museum, Hammer Museum, Matthias Botanical Garden, Medical Center). Many of the residents in our area who do not work at UCLA work in office buildings in Westwood, along the Wilshire Corridor, and in Century City. And finally, many of our residents worship at religious institutions in Westwood and along the Wilshire corridor.

Our board recognizes that this letter is being submitted prior to the availability of U.S. Census data integral to these analyses and deliberations. We look forward to having the opportunity to provide future comments once that data is publicly available and/or proposed boundaries have been released by the Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter. Thank you also for your service to the county in your capacity as Commission members!

Sincerely,

Barbara Broide, President
Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd Homeowners Association

Attached: Janss Investment Corporation 1928 brochure/map promoting their residential development area "Westwood Hills/Holmby Hills" in support of UCLA campus development
Westwood – Janss Investment Corporation brochure (1928)

(Note: Olympic Blvd. had not yet been named which did not happen until LA hosted the games in 1932. Olympic Blvd. also did not go past what was then Fox Studios or the “Westwood Public Golf Course.”)
Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

Attachment A-4 begins next page.
August 10, 2021

Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC)  
c/o tle@crc.lacounty.gov  
Los Angeles, CA

Re: LA County Redistricting (Zone H)

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Grace Peng and I have lived in the South Bay since 1997. I moved out here as a newly-minted PhD to work in the Aerospace industry along with my husband (another PhD scientist) and we raised our daughter here. We are both very concerned about the slow-motion train wrecks of climate change, rising inequality and the housing crisis.

We live in an urban-infill townhouse and ride our bicycles around as our primary transportation, and we want the majority of people to have the option of living biking distance from work. It’s good for the planet, our region, and for people to have short commutes and housing that suits their needs and pocketbooks. Sadly, our region has not been good at delivering these necessities to people on moderate and low incomes. I have hope that we can still save the planet and ourselves with a more representative government.

I am flummoxed by the salamander shape of the current District 4. Please make the new district lines as compact and convex (in the mathematical sense) as practical. Someday, we will hold meetings in person again. It would be optimal to design districts that are navigable without private automobiles. Please take into consideration high quality transit and bicycle routes. The area covered by LA Metro’s South Bay Service Council is a good starting point.

The area spanned by the South Bay Cities’ Council of Governments (SBCCOG) is navigable by bike+transit and that is a good place to start when designing district lines. In addition, the cities of SBCCOG have a history of working in cooperation with one another on sub-regional issues.

The core of the Aerospace industry spanning from El Segundo to Hawthorne, Torrance and Carson should be kept in one district.

Water is an urgent issue for our subregion. Keeping the West Coast Basin (approximate boundaries of the West Basin Municipal Water District) together in one district would help. If it isn’t possible to keep the whole WBMWD basin in one LABOS district, try to keep the 1+ million people in the Dominguez Channel Watershed together. It has been neglected compared to the better-known LA River and Ballona Creek watersheds. But, it is home to many refineries and has pollution problems to prove it.

The Dominguez Channel Watershed has the added bonus of resembling the shape of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments. The watershed includes a portion of the coastal cities in
SBCCOG. The addition of the rest of El Segundo, the Beach Cities and Palos Verdes could be the core of a compact district.
I urge you to keep the Asian American communities in Gardena and Torrance intact and in one district. Many Japanese-American internees resettled after WWII in this area. They are elderly and frail. Their families have been systematically stripped of wealth and excluded from opportunities. This community is currently split right down the middle.

Japanese companies seeking bilingual (Japanese-English) workers settled in the South Bay region between LAX airport and the seaports. They were followed by many other Asian and Pacific Multinational companies of all sizes. These companies are spread along the 405 freeway from Gardena through Carson and attract an Asian-American workforce. Try to keep these communities in the same district.

I serve on the boards of both the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities and LWV of Los Angeles County. LWVBC covers Inglewood, Hawthorne and all the coastal cities from El Segundo to Redondo Beach. LWV Torrance Area covers Torrance, Gardena, Lawndale, Lomita and Carson. LWV Palos Verdes covers the Palos Verdes Peninsula, including San Pedro. Collectively, the Tri-League (LWVBC, LWVTA, LWVPV) covers the SBCCOG region. LWV works to educate the populace on issues and also serve as watchdogs for democracy. It would simplify our work if Tri-League was in one supervisorial district.
The South Bay is served by two community colleges, El Camino and Harbor College. Please keep the majority of the El Camino Community College District, including Hawthorne intact. Please keep Carson and PV-all in the LAHC drawing area-in the same district.

I hope I have demonstrated that the South Bay is a community of interest and should be kept intact as much as possible. If you do have to draw a boundary, I suggest grouping Inglewood in with the West Side cities; but Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Gardena belong firmly with the other South Bay cities.
Finally, please keep the Chinese-American communities of the San Gabriel Valley in one district. Unfortunately, it took Covid-19 and ubiquitous cameras to show the rest of the country that Asian Americans are a vulnerable group. It is too easy, and false, to dismiss us as a group that doesn’t need help. Detailed disaggregated data for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders shows many communities that are struggling. Pacific Islanders, many refugees of climate change and American colonialism, suffered the greatest losses due to Covid in 2020. Don’t split/crack AAPI communities in this round of redistricting.

Sincerely,
Grace Peng, PhD
LA County Redistricting Commission, August 19, 2021 Hearing

Zone H- Communities of Interest Input

UCLA is one of the world’s premier universities with 46,000 students. It is a thriving public institution - symbiotic with the Westwood community we call home.

Nearly 15,000 UCLA students live on campus, and a vast majority of our off-campus student housing is located in Westwood. Approximately 3,400 staff and faculty are also Westwood residents.

The campus is an economic engine, and an intellectual and cultural partner in the district. It is also home to UCLA Health, one of the most advanced health care systems in the world, with four hospitals and several clinics in the third district.

UCLA has over 66,000 Alumni living in the third district, with over 11,500 in the Westwood neighborhood. Our alumni play a vital role, serve as volunteers, and share common interests along with the community at-large.

Our boundaries, like those of Westwood, are compact and contiguous. For years, our campus has worked to build relationships with our surrounding neighborhoods including Westwood and Westwood Village. Fostering these relationships remains a top priority for us.

In addition, we work closely with our two neighborhood councils (the Westwood Neighborhood Council and the North Westwood Neighborhood Council) as well as the Westwood Village Improvement Association. Together, we share strong historical communities of interest.

We take great pride in working jointly to address community and regional concerns, and we want to continue being represented by one Supervisorial district. Equally as important is fostering a relationship with one district representative that can meet the needs of the university as well as the needs of our neighbors.

Our history is rich and deep. Just two years ago, we celebrated the Centennial of UCLA’s founding. Since the university’s move to Westwood in 1929, we have grown together with our neighborhood and we want to continue fostering this special working relationship within one Supervisorial district.

Thank you for your consideration.

Duane Muller
Senior Executive Director, UCLA Government and Community Relations
Email: dmuller@support.ucla.edu
Submitted Public Comments for Zone H Public Hearing

Attachment A-6 begins next page.
August 19, 2021

Dear County Redistricting Commissioners:

The Topanga Town Council urges the County Redistricting Commission (CRC) to keep our town of 11,000+ residents connected to the communities that touch its boundaries on all sides from the mountains to the coasts. Such a plan would allow our town to be completely and firmly planted within the surrounding communities with which we share many of the same challenges and concerns. These include, but are not limited to: Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades and Woodland Hills.

We have worked collaboratively across our sister communities for decades to compel our legislative leaders to develop cutting-edge wildfire prevention and resilience plans. Now, in a post Woolsey environment characterized by rapid climate change, there is still so much more that we must tackle together.

We have long fought arm-in-arm to protect coastal-mountain resources from drought, degradation and habitat destruction, tirelessly educating our legislators on the importance of protecting our watersheds and safeguarding contiguous habitat for our beleaguered mountain lion and Monarch butterfly populations. For these reasons, we encourage the Redistricting Commission to allow Topanga to continue with the districting plans that have been in place since 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively.

It is worth noting that our request dovetails with the CRC’s own priority of “continuity of geography.” Thus, keeping these mountain and coastal communities entwined will help ensure stability in shared projects and programs affecting our environment, livelihood, safety, education, growth and spirit.

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, do not 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 have a closely connected and symbiotic relationship.
For example, the Woolsey and recent Palisades fire that closed Topanga Canyon Boulevard for days on end, equally affected residents and commuters from the Las Virgenes and West San Fernando Valleys on their way to schools and jobs on the West side. Frequent emergency closures on PCH impact all of these communities because traffic is diverted through Topanga Canyon, the primary mountain connector between the San Fernando Valley and the West side.

Ever since the 1993 Old Topanga Canyon/Malibu Fire that roared through the Santa Monica Mountains to the sea, burning Topanga and Malibu and threatening Pacific Palisades and Calabasas, the need for a cross-community effort to counter wildfire threats has become urgent. In recognition of that compelling need, our communities have all joined forces to prepare and rehearse evacuation and emergency preparedness exercises with our surrounding communities, municipalities, and our first responder agencies over the decades. This collaboration across communities has made our disaster response more effective and better managed. One shining example of this County Community is the recently held (on August 12, 2021) virtual evacuation drill for which 700 participants from across the Santa Monica Mountains registered.

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 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.
CANYON SAGES (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 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 all provide essential transportation for these Topanga seniors, a growing population.

TCEP – 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, TCEP 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 TCEP 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.

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 is one of the products of this effort. 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. Note that Topanga is currently helping sister communities develop a similar Zone program to facilitate evacuations and repopulations.

PARKS & BEACHES – The communities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake, Malibu, Topanga reside in a unique wildland urban interface (WUI) that includes Federal and State parklands and other publicly 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 natural areas 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 local Conservancies and other local government partners 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 local 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.

ONETOPANGA.COM – The Topanga Town Council maintains a community website called, OneTopanga.com, which serves local and surrounding communities, as well as visitors to our Canyon. It provides a direct link to all organizations and businesses serving Topanga. The Community Calendar is one of the popular features that help residents find local and County events, and meetings affecting our community. Another feature, the Emergency Information section, puts people in direct contact with first responders, preparedness programs, resources and volunteer groups. The Topanga Resource section is a direct link to the County Supervisor’s Office, State and Federal Governments, and cooperating agencies.

TOPANGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY – The local historical society has produced a large, hard-bound book entitled, The Topanga Story, which is now in its second edition. The volunteers of this society have worked over many years with the surrounding communities of Malibu, Pacific Palisades and other areas in Los Angeles acquiring an accurate, historical perspective of not only Topanga, but also areas touching and influencing Topanga’s boundaries.

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

BUSINESS - Art & Entertainment Industry - Topanga’s demographic and employment patterns parallel those of 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 a critical transportation bridge from the Valley to the West side, serving 20,000+ 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, both the Valley and Beach, 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, 2001, and 2011 districting plans have proved successful. Our neighbors of Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades and Woodland Hills should be kept together. Our request to the County Redistricting Commission is to keep it this way. We thank the Commission for its time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

The Topanga Town Council