



**CITY of CALABASAS**  
**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

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**DATE: APRIL 20, 2021**

**TO: HONORABLE COUNCILMEMBERS**

**BY: JAMES R. BOZAJIAN MAYOR**

**SUBJECT: 2021 CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING PROCESS**

**MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2021**

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**Statistics:**

At present, the State of California has a population of approximately 40 million. There are 40 State Senate Districts, each of which contains 1 million people. There are 80 State Assembly Districts, each of which contains 500,000 people. Right now California has 53 Congressional Districts, but that number is expected to decrease to 52 after reapportionment is completed later this year. This change stems from relatively stagnant growth, and marks the first time in history that the State's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives will shrink. Assuming 52 Congressional Districts, then, each one contains nearly 800,000 people.

There are five incorporated cities — Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, and Westlake Village — in the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments (COG) and, when we include the surrounding unincorporated areas, there are slightly less than 100,000 residents in the greater region.

**The Present Lines:**

In 2011, the State's political districts (e.g., Congressional, Senate, Assembly) were drawn by an independent commission (California Redistricting Commission) for the first time. This was accomplished pursuant to Proposition 11, an initiative approved

by voters in 2008. Unfortunately, the Commission carved up the geographic area covered by our COG in an unprecedentedly haphazard manner as follows.

CD-26 (Brownley): Westlake Village.

CD-27 (Sherman): Hidden Hills.

CD-33 (Lieu): Agoura Hills, **Calabasas**, Malibu.

SD-27 (Stern): Agoura Hills, **Calabasas**, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Westlake Village.

The State Senate District is the one political unit where the entire COG region is represented by the same legislator.

AD-44 (Irwin): Westlake Village.

AD-45 (Gabriel): **Calabasas**, Hidden Hills.

AD-50 (Bloom): Agoura Hills, **Calabasas**, Malibu.

The little City of Calabasas, (population 25,000), despite emphatically pleading 10 years ago to be kept intact, is actually divided between two Assembly Districts. As mentioned many times over the years, I believe we are the only municipality of our size in California to be so slighted.

#### **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:**

Los Angeles County will also conduct redistricting this year, though in this case the process will be controlled by the Board of Supervisors. At present, the County has a population of approximately 10 million. There are five Supervisorial Districts, each of which contains 2 million people.

With such large Districts, it is less likely that the COG-area cities will be separated into different jurisdictions. The greater danger here is that entire region could be moved into an oddly shaped District that includes various pieces of far-flung areas of the County. This very thing was proposed during the last redistricting cycle in 2011, when the Supervisors considered including Calabasas and environs within a new District that wandered around the borders of the County in an arc-like "U." Fortunately, that map was ultimately rejected.

#### **Conclusions:**

The California Redistricting Commission has just commenced its once-in-a-decade mandate to redraw California's political boundaries. The City of Calabasas will soon have an opportunity to join other government entities in providing input into how the new lines are devised. What follows are three general principles that we should advocate in our written and verbal testimony. It is to be hoped that the other cities within our COG will provide similar comments, thereby helping to present a united

front to the Commission. The same principles should be applied to the County redistricting process.

1. Given the statistics cited above there is no reasonable excuse for dividing our otherwise cohesive region, with so many commonalities of interest, into different Districts. This is especially true for the cities in the Conejo Valley. The City of Malibu may present some challenges here, because the geography and population distribution could lend itself to some division whereby that one entity is added to another District. But at the very least, the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village should be kept within the same political boundaries.

2. Under no circumstances should any individual COG city find itself divided between two or more Districts, such as the present situation for the City of Calabasas. This is an absurd outcome, given the fact that our five cities' sizes range from 2,000 to 25,000 people.

3. Districts should be as compact as possible, with "circle-like" shapes (such as SD-27) strongly favored over "snake-like" shapes (such as CD-33). CD-33 encompasses areas of the State that have little or nothing in common, meandering nearly from the Orange County line to the Ventura County line.

To avoid the possibility of another unfavorable redistricting cycle, we should become actively engaged early and often. This would include tracking all steps in the process; submitting written testimony to the State and County as appropriate; and providing verbal testimony at redistricting meetings where possible.