

November 12, 2021

Re: Redistricting Visualization Maps

Dear Chairman.....

On behalf of the Calabasas City Council, I write to express our strong disappointment with the visualization maps currently being discussed by the California Citizen Redistricting Commission (CCRC). As we have expressed previously, we support the inclusion of the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Westlake Village, and the unincorporated area from Topanga to the Ventura County line in one Community of Interest that should be kept intact in all political boundaries to ensure residents are being properly represented at all levels of government.

The current visualization maps do not reflect this natural alignment. While there are slight improvements compared to the current boundaries, the five cities and the adjacent unincorporated areas are still sliced and diced into differing districts at all levels. For Congressional Districts, one map groups Westlake Village and Agoura Hills, but leaves out Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Malibu. For Assembly Districts, one map groups Calabasas, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills, but leaves out Hidden Hills. It is similar for State Senate Districts, where one map contains Hidden Hills but leaves out the other four cities – instead, putting them in a District that includes such far-flung places as Manhattan Beach and El Segundo.

In addition, the City of Calabasas is currently in the process of annexing an area known as Craftsman’s Corner, north of the 101 freeway as it runs east-west through our City. The current visualization maps show that area would be in an entirely separate district – in both State Assembly and State Senate – from the rest of Calabasas. There is no logical reason for this.

As we have stated previously, the five cities are entities separate and distinct from the City of Los Angeles and are joined in a longstanding common Council of Governments, or COG. Including the unincorporated territories above, there are only 100,000 residents in this entire area. All five cities range in population from 2,000 to 25,000 people, and it makes no sense to split these communities into different districts.

As stated, the City of Calabasas firmly believes the California Citizens Redistricting Commission needs to revise the current visualization maps for the following reasons:

1. There is no reasonable excuse for dividing this small cohesive region, with so many common interests, into different Districts.
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 absurd, 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 strongly favored over "snake-like" shapes that may encompass districts that have virtually no commonalities.

The City of Calabasas wants to work actively with the CCRC to make sure boundaries are drawn fairly so that residents can have confidence in the process and confidence that their representation at all levels of government is fair and works for them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

CITY OF CALABASAS

James R. Bozajian
Mayor

c/ Henry Stern, Senator, 27th State Senate District
Jesse Gabriel, Assembly Member, 45th Assembly District
Agoura Hills City Council
Hidden Hills City Council
Westlake Village City Council
Malibu City Council
Terry Dipple, COG Executive Director
Kindon Meik, Calabasas City Manager
Nathan Hamburger, Agoura Hills City Manager
Steve McClary, Malibu Interim City Manager
Rob de Geus, Westlake Village City Manager
Kerry Kallman, Hidden Hills City Manager
Mr. Alvaro Hernandez, Executive Director, CCRC