



CITY *of* CALABASAS

JAMES R. BOZAJIAN
Mayor

November 16, 2021

Commissioner Carolyn Williams
Commissioner Daniel M. Mayeda
Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission Co-Chairs

Re: Redistricting Community of Interest

Dear Co-Chairs Williams and Mayeda:

On behalf of the Calabasas City Council, I write to express our strong disappointment with some of the proposed maps currently being discussed by the Los Angeles County Redistricting Commission. 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, especially within LA County.

Some of the current maps released on November 15 do not reflect this natural alignment. The City of Calabasas would like to see the Commission's maps follow two simple general principles:

- Please keep the five cities in our region (Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Westlake Village, and the surrounding unincorporated communities) together in the same district.
- Please keep our district as compact as possible. Districts outlines that resemble snakes are simply not appropriate.

Looking at the maps, we have concerns with some of them:

1. **Map A:** We oppose this map because it cuts off the City of Hidden Hills and some unincorporated communities from the remainder of our region. Furthermore, the proposed district would stretch in a snake-like manner to include distant areas at the southern end of the County, with which we have very little in common.
2. **Map B:** We approve of Map B as presently configured because it keeps the five cities together in one district.
3. **Map C:** We oppose this map because it would meander throughout the County, narrowly hugging the coast, stretching down to the Orange County line, straddling it, and then traveling eastward to include many areas very distant from our own.

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4. **Map D:** We approve of this map as presently configured. Much like Map B, this map keeps the five cities together in one district.
5. **Map E:** We oppose this map. It starts off in the Conejo Valley, but then bypasses adjacent communities with two large, octopus-like appendages that fling to remote areas of the County. One appendage goes east to the San Gabriel Valley. The other goes south, nearly to the Orange County line.
6. **Map F:** We oppose this map, as it (again) slices off Hidden Hills and some unincorporated areas from the rest of our region. It also has an appendage that travels south, along the coast, and proceeds to the southern end of the County.

As we have stated previously, these five cities comprise a separate and distinct entity from the City of Los Angeles, and are joined in a longstanding common Council of Governments, or COG. Including the unincorporated territories mentioned, 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.

The City of Calabasas knows this work is difficult and wants to work actively with the Commission 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

JRB/MR/mh

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



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JAMES R. BOZAJIAN

Mayor

November 16, 2021

Mr. Pedro Toledo
California Citizens Redistricting Commission Chair

Re: Redistricting Visualization Maps

Dear Chair Toledo:

On behalf of the Calabasas City Council, I write to express our strong disappointment with the visualization maps currently being discussed by the California Citizens 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 released on November 10 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, the map groups Westlake Village, Agoura Hills and Calabasas, but leaves out Hidden Hills and Malibu. For Assembly Districts, the map groups Calabasas, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills and Malibu, but leaves out Hidden Hills.

It is similar for State Senate Districts, where the map leaves out Hidden Hills, keeps the four other cities together, but folds them into a District that includes such far-flung places as Manhattan Beach and Rancho Palos Verdes. 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 map appears to 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 comprise a separate and distinct entity 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 CCRC needs to revise the current visualization maps for the following reasons:

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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.

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



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c/ Henry Stern, Senator, 27th State Senate District
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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