HIGH TIME FOR THE HIGH COUNTRY

I accessed your website and public hearing today and found it to be too bureaucratic for me or the average voter to find useful. Consequently, you are not receiving full and comprehensive input so desirable during these perilous times challenging our Constitutional democracy. I am concerned that ignorance will result in inequity.

The San Bernardino Mountains deserve wiser re-districting having been artificially disconnected from its natural access south to Redlands, San Bernardino, San Manuel, the East Valley and beyond where an estimated 6 million tourists visit annually. This is evidenced by State highway traffic counts (SR 18 and 330). County-funded economic studies of our market underscored the importance of tourism and recreation as a key job and business generator. The San Bernardino National Forest, the key destination, provides the setting for attractions like Lake Gregory, Lake Arrowhead, Children’s Forest, Snow Valley, Rim Nordic, Heaps Peak Arboretum, Big Bear Lake and Big Bear Village.

Federal congressional re-districting is separated from County supervisorial re-districting; failing to recognize connected economic and social dynamics directed south, not north into the High Desert. The late Republican Congressional leader Jerry Lewis of Redlands once represented us. Now because of re-districting, we are separated from our closest market area as documented by commuters and tourists. We have lost his successor, democratic Congressman Pete Aguilar, a key leader who does not serve our congressional district. That situation is comparable with County supervisorial districts.

1. Mountain residents convinced the voter-approved public spirited Prop 20 citizen’s committee recommendation to re-district state and federal representatives into one district. Now we need to re-configure it south rather than north.

2. For example, Lake Arrowhead, an internationally renowned tourism destination, Running Springs, a key pivot point to that community and Big Bear Lake, the major tourism destination, were previously part of the County Third Supervisorial District once represented by former San Manuel tribal chairman and businessman, Assemblyman James Ramos. Because of politics, we missed an historic opportunity to be served by Supervisor and now Assemblyman James Ramos, a former San Manuel tribal chairman, businessman, pastor and resident of our Mountain community where our Mountain was once the tribe’s ancestral land. Situated on the SOUTHERN slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains, San Manuel is notable for its ancestral Mountain homeland, economic success, contribution to our entire Mountain community and environmental sensitivity now missing in County, State and federal government.

3. Now, after having suffered from closures of SR 330, our exposure to a more congested SR 18 fire evacuation route, the proposed re-districting replaces a catastrophic natural disaster with a manufactured one.

The Mountains deserve greater attention

Thank you for your attention

Sincerely,
Dear Commissioner:

The San Bernardino Mountains deserve wiser re-districting having been disconnected from its natural access south to Redlands, San Bernardino, San Manuel, the East Valley and beyond where an estimated 6 million tourists visit annually. This is evidenced by State highway traffic counts (SR 18 and 330). We have much less connection with the High Desert, its culture and economy.

The late Congressman Jerry Lewis of Redlands once represented us until re-districting, replaced by Congressman Pete Aguilar. Please keep politics on the shelf and restore this more viable and natural arrangement.

Sincerely,

Bruce Cort Daniels

Running Springs, CA 92382