July 20, 2021

The Honorable Chair and Members
California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA  95814

Via email:  VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.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. 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.

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).

Many of our residents work at UCLA – on staff or on faculty there. Our residents participate in many UCLA-based cultural and sporting activities, and volunteer at a number of UCLA facilities and programs (Fowler Museum, Hammer Museum, Matthias Botanical Garden, Medical Center). The proximity of the UCLA Medical Center to our area has made it the health care facility of choice for a large number of our residents. 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.

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. Our multi-family zoned areas of the community contain both condominiums and apartments with many housing UCLA students and staff. A bird’s eye view would show that our community is very similar to the area north of Santa Monica Blvd. physically and in terms of population characteristics.
WSSM volunteers are devoted to maintaining and improving the quality of life in our community by ensuring that elected officials hear our voice, that appropriate and adequate services are provided to our constituents, and that members are aware of city/government activities/resources and current public issues. We understand that we are a part of a larger and very diverse city and state 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 Congressional, State Senate and Assembly District seats; 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 current, long-standing and historical ties with the UCLA campus and the Westwood Village campus community.

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 these comments. Thank you also for your service 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.”)