



CITY OF OJAI

401 South Ventura Street · Ojai · California · 93023
(805) 646-5581

September 14, 2021

County of Ventura
Redistricting
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1940

Re: County of Ventura District 1 – Maintaining Ojai and Ventura as communities of interest

To Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

The City of Ojai would like to submit this letter in support of retaining Ojai in District 1. The Cities of Ojai and Ventura have a strong connection and community interests. Both are served by the Ventura River and its water supply and share State Highway 33. The Ojai Valley Trail is also connected to the Ventura River Trail which allows residents from both cities to bike from the Ventura to downtown Ojai. Public transportation also connects the cities and their residents.

At the County of Ventura Community Redistricting Meeting on August 31, 2021 you received public comment from Assemblymember and former District 1 Supervisor Steve Bennett. Assemblymember Bennett stated he feels strongly that Ojai and Ventura have a strong community of interest because both cities are connected by the Ventura River water source and Highway 33. The City of Ojai agrees with, and supports Assemblymember Bennett's statement.

The definition of a Community of Interest is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. The City of Ojai and Ventura meet this criteria, and should remain in District 1.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Vega".

James Vega, City Manager