

From: **Stephanie Chong**

Date: Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 8:17 AM

Subject: Foothill Cities Community of Interest in Congressional District 27 from Pasadena to Claremont

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I live in neighboring Congressional District 28 and I have family living in Congressional District 27 so both districts are important to me.

The 27th is designed well with the national forest and many cities in the Foothill Cities Community of Interest joined together. This district logically encompasses a large Asian population in the district's southwest that needs to be in one district to meet Voting Rights Act requirements. Some of these communities are park poor and benefit from having natural areas in the national forest nearby. They would surely want a member of Congress who could argue on their behalf for transit to trails.

The Foothill Cities Community of Interest in the 27th CD includes Pasadena, Altadena, Arcadia, Bradbury, Claremont, San Antonio Heights, Sierra Madre and Glendora. It could benefit from the addition of Azusa, a gateway city to the Angeles National Forest along Highway 39.

Many of these cities' identities are inextricably tied to San Gabriel Mountains with Pasadena, for example, beginning in the 1880s as a resort town with access to the mountains. Azusa, Claremont and San Antonio Heights are major gateway cities to the forest. Some homes in all of these cities are located within blocks of the Angeles National Forest and trails from many of these cities lead seamlessly into federal public land.

Climate change and drought will further unite these communities with the ever growing threat of wildfire. This will likely require closer coordination with the Forest Service with almost all of the communities having high severity fire zones. The Foothill Cities Community of Interest in the 27th must have a member of Congress with a substantial portion of the national forest in the 27th as now is the case so that residents have a member of Congress we can address their concerns with the Forest Service, the agency that manages the Angeles, and seek more resources for recreation and fire protection in Congress.

District 27 currently does an excellent job of empowering the foothill communities by placing them in the same congressional district as the San Gabriel Mountains to the north of the COI. Common COI concerns about the management of their federal public lands and common traits make them a powerful community of interest. Issues the foothill communities have in common include sections of high severity fire zones; fire and fuels management; wildfire suppression; zoning and fire safe structures; tourism; watershed management and flood control; recreational quality and availability; parking near trailheads; high levels of forest visitation; and access. forest access. They are united by common traits, including historic ties to the San Gabriel Mountains, homes adjacent or near the forests, ecology (chaparral ecosystems), steepening slope, wildlife management, a major visual feature/scenic backdrop, and more.

I ask the commission to again recognize the importance of keeping the Foothill Cities Community of Interest in the 27th in the same district and keeping connected to a vibrant Asian community.

Stephanie Chong