

From: **Dona Mitoma**

Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 5:44 PM

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

To: [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov) <[votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov)>

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

The 27<sup>th</sup> congressional district functions well as it is currently configured. It should be kept the way it is. The 27th congressional district encompasses and unites many foothill communities from Pasadena east to Claremont with the Angeles National Forest to its north and the large Asian population to the southwest. 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 located on Highway 39.

Many of these cities' identities are inextricably tied to the San Gabriel Mountains. Pasadena, for example, began 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. That way residents have a member of Congress who 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 issues regarding their nearby federal public lands and common traits make them a powerful community of interest. Issues the 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. The COI

members are united by common traits, including historic ties to the San Gabriel Mountains, homes adjacent or near the forest, 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 as the San Gabriel Mountains to their north. The 27<sup>th</sup> is serving its residents well; keep it intact during redistricting.

I am a resident of this congressional district.

Sincerely yours,  
Dona Mitoma