

From: **Buffy Shutt**

Date: Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 12:59 PM

Subject: Foothill Cities Community of Interest, Congressional District 28

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I have lived in La Cañada, in the 28th Congressional District, for over 30 years. My husband and I raised two children here. The Angeles National Forest is a neighbor, part of our community, a natural friend and now a new world for my two grandsons.

I am writing you today to ask that the 28th Congressional District be kept the way it is. It respects the Foothill Cities Community of Interest (COI) that, along with the national forest to its north, anchor the district's design. This compelling Community of Interest includes La Cañada Flintridge, Montrose, La Crescenta, and Sunland-Tujunga.

These communities have a strong interest in the management of the federal public lands adjacent to them. District 28 does an excellent job of empowering the foothill communities by placing them in the same congressional district as a substantial section of the San Gabriel Mountains adjacent to them. This allows the COI to work with their member of Congress to influence the Forest Service, the agency that manages the forest, as well as Congress on the issues of forest policy, resources, and wildfire suppression. These policies help maintain healthy forest ecosystems, which are essential for a sustainable future and improving the quality of life for us and for the generations who will follow us.

The foothill communities in the COI share many common concerns about the management of their federal public lands and common traits, which make them a powerful community of interest. Both Tujunga and La Cañada Flintridge are major gateway cities to the forest. Some homes—like mine--in all these cities are located within blocks of the Angeles National Forest and trails from many of these cities lead seamlessly into federal public land. All have high severity fire zones. With climate change and drought, these issues will become even more critical to all members of the COI in years to come.

The COI communities also share issues of watershed management and flood control; recreational quality and availability; historic ties to the San Gabriel Mountains; ecology (chaparral ecosystems); steepening slope; wildlife management; and a major visual feature/scenic backdrop. And bears. We share our district with impressive, but foraging, wildlife.

I ask the commission again to recognize the importance of placing the Foothill Cities Community of Interest in the same congressional district as the Angeles National Forest to its north and keeping district 28 as it is, working well for its residents, the wider community and for nature whose voice must be heard.

Best regards,

Buffy Shutt

