

Caller 1983:

My name is Stewart Waldman, I'm from the valley industry commerce association. I'm also representing the San Fernando Valley redistricting coalition made up of neighborhood councils, homeowners and resident's groups and business groups. I'm calling today about the San Fernando valley. The San Fernando valley is a geographical area bounded by the Santa Susana mountains to the north, simi hills to the west, Mulholland drive to the south and San Gabriel mountains to the east. It lies within Los Angeles County and includes the cities of Calabasas, Burbank, Glendale, San Fernando, hidden hills and 42 percent of the city of Los Angeles. The San Fernando valley formerly known as America's suburb is now economically vibrant and ethnically diverse at the heart of Los Angeles. In fact, if the San Fernando valley region were its own city it would be the fifth largest in America. The residents of this community come from across the globe and work in myriad industries but hold a common identity as part of the San Fernando valley. The valley needs districts that will truly represent our interest. Recognition of the valley's individuality is far from new. The coalition supports the creation of districts that maximize the connection that legislators have with the San Fernando valley. To ensure full and adequate representation for the San Fernando valley we support valley-only districts. If it is necessary to merge one valley seat with areas outside of the valley, the preference is to have a minimum of 50 percent of that district within the San Fernando valley. We would also request that none of our districts go south of Mulholland drive into the west side, in fact, on Monday, the Los Angeles city council redistricting commission just voted that they will not draw any council districts that go south of Mulholland. So, we hope that you adopt that principle as well. If you must move valley districts into another area, we would request that they move north in the Santa Clarita, east in the San Gabriel or west into Ventura County.