

From: **Rick Herrick**  
Date: Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 5:41 PM  
Subject: Connected Communities  
To: <[VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov](mailto:VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov)>

Jane Andersen,  
Chair California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Re: Connected Communities

Dear Chair Andersen,

My name is Rick Herrick, I am currently the Mayor of the City of Big Bear Lake, and serve on our local Fire Protection District Board, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency and San Bernardino County Transportation Authority. I wanted to make sure the concerns of my community were better understood.

We are a rural community in the San Bernardino National Forest. Our economy is largely driven by tourism. We do our best to be a year round destination, in the winter we have three ski resorts and during the summer months we have a number of recreational activities from kayaking, to mountain biking to hiking and camping.

Because of our proximity to the national forest we have to coordinate closely with state and federal agencies to deal with wildfires and forest management. The threat of wildfires also means our community is reliant on our transportation arteries in case we have to evacuate. These include Highway 38 to Yucaipa, Highway 18 to the High Desert and Highway 330 from Running Springs and Lake Arrowhead.

Our community would like to be with other areas that understand our major concerns. Lake Arrowhead, Running Springs and Wrightwood all are destination communities, and like us Wrightwood and Running

Springs have ski resorts, Snow Valley and Mountain High for visitors during the winter season. In addition, we connect to the High Desert because of the off roaders who visit both areas. Every year there is a huge off-road event in Johnson Valley that books all the local hotels from the Morongo Basin to Hesperia, and many of those folks come to enjoy our community.

We are also closely connected to Fort Irwin and Twentynine Palms Marine Base as we are a summer and winter retreat for the officers, service members and their families who reside there.

Also because we consider ourselves a mountain top island surrounded by National Forest, Yucaipa shares similar concerns with wildfires and management of our national forests. Like us they have been evacuated because of wildfires and we share Highway 38, a major thoroughfare during such evacuations.

The California League of Cities considers this region as a single unit called the Mountain and Desert Division and includes the cities of Bishop, Mammoth, Apple Valley, Victorville, Adelanto, Hesperia, Twentynine Palms, Yucca Valley, Barstow and Needles.

Thank you for this consideration as you work on the most important task of redistricting.

Rick Herrick

Mayor  
City of Big Bear Lake