



September 26, 2021

Dear Commission Members:

As President of the Phelan Chamber of Commerce, I write to you on behalf of our business community to urge you to keep Phelan and our sister community of Pinon Hills as part of the Victor Valley and San Bernardino High Desert.

Phelan is a quiet, High Desert community at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains of Southern California in the County of San Bernardino. It's an active community with lots of hometown spirit. Phelan is a small rural community with a rich history that celebrates its independence and frontier attitude. The people are passionate and down to earth, making it a great place to live, work and play. Phelan offers four seasons of activities for visitors and residents alike. For those who like to hike or ride a horse, there are several great opportunities to explore the unique ecosystem that is the transitional habitat between forest and desert. The Pacific Crest Trail is just minutes from Phelan in the community of Wrightwood and the national forest offers several hikes for all ages and skill levels your exploring requires wheels, then Phelan offers several designated off-highway vehicle trails as well as BLM and Forest service roads ready for your discovery, much like many communities in the High Desert such as Apple Valley, Johnson Valley, Morongo Valley, West Cajon Valley, and Oak Hills.

Phelan and Pinon Hills share so much together and are both part of the broader San Bernardino's High Desert Community. Residents from both communities and throughout the Victor Valley attend Chamber-sponsored events, such as Phelan Family Fun Day and concerts in the park. The businesses of Phelan are diverse with the majority of businesses in the service industry, followed by retail trade. Most of the businesses in the downtown business district support the day-to-day necessities of life in the small-town rural communities of Phelan, Pinon Hills, and Wrightwood. Residents from West Cajon Valley and El Mirage also rely on our main business district. Our businesses are primarily locally owned business by local families who live, eat and spend locally.

Phelan is currently split by two Assembly districts which is problematic when it comes to figuring out who to contact and we prefer our Victor Valley representative since he and his staff live in the High Desert and know our needs. We have close ties to the Victor Valley and feel that our entire community which includes residents of Pinon Hills should be represented by whoever also represents the Victor Valley and High Desert. We are small and feel that lumping us in with the Antelope Valley disenfranchises our community as they do not know about us and are not located near us. While our Chamber supports and recommends our own local businesses, we are aware that our residents frequent the big box stores in Hesperia and Victorville – not Palmdale. We are actively working on bringing more medical offices to our community, however, we realize our residents still seek services, including emergency and hospital services, in Victorville, Hesperia, and Apple Valley.

Please keep our Victor Valley Communities together. We have a lot in common with each other and work diligently to support each other with our common purpose to promote local businesses, support tourism in the San Bernardino High Desert, and protect our way of life.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kujawa
Chamber President