

From:

Date: Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 2:38 PM

Subject: Map/Narrative for Oct 21-23 meeting: Please keep the San Fernando Valley together: Matt Rosenberg at October 11, 2021 - PDF map attached

To:

I am Matt Rosenberg from Woodland Hills, in the San Fernando Valley.

The San Fernando Valley includes the northern city limits of Los Angeles, in neighborhoods like Chatsworth, Porter Ranch, Granada Hills and Sylmar. The southern limit is Mulholland Drive. To the west you find the cities of Hidden Hills and Calabasas. To the east you find the cities of Burbank and Glendale. In between it also includes Valley neighborhoods in Reseda, Canoga Park, Sherman Oaks, North Hollywood, Woodland Hills & West Hills, amongst others.

These neighborhoods are important because after the Valley voted, with a majority vote, to secede from the City of Los Angeles, city officials recognized that Neighborhood Councils, particularly in the Valley, could lead to empowerment.

I have lived in "The Valley", the San Fernando Valley for 39 years.

This includes Reseda, Canoga Park, Sherman Oaks, North Hollywood, Woodland Hills & West Hills.

I was married in Valley Village. My son was born in Tarzana.

We are 1 community "The Valley"; All with the same area code 818.

(Also known world-wide; 1983 film, "Valley Girl" based in Sherman Oaks, culture of the San Fernando Valley - per Wikipedia in 2021)

For many years, I have gone to many concerts at Warner Park, in Woodland Hills, run by the Valley Cultural Foundation. Thousands of people in our community enjoy it.

I was a member of the West Valley Jewish Community Center, in West Hills, for 17 years.

I read the San Fernando Valley Business Journal.

I read the weekly Valley Vantage.

We are 1 community.

Please keep the San Fernando Valley together. It is one Community of Interest. You have been presented with “Visualizations” that largely recognize this Community, as directed by many resident comments.

Starting with that principle, you will surely note that the San Fernando Valley is too populated for any one district. Therefore the goal should be to draw as many districts as possible that are entirely, or mostly, in the San Fernando Valley.

I present 3 congressional districts that demonstrate how this can be done. They are properly balanced by population. I also note that the previous Commission did an excellent job preserving the Valley’s integrity, especially by drawing districts with a southern boundary at Mulholland Drive.

District “1” is based in the East Valley. Almost all neighborhood boundaries are preserved. Importantly it includes the Hispanic majority neighborhoods, which will continue to allow the community to elect representatives of their choice.

District “2” is based in the West and South Valley. Again, almost all neighborhood boundaries are preserved. It includes in the west two cities outside the limits of Los Angeles: Hidden Hills and Calabasas. Most civic organizations, let alone geographers, would say that these cities are in the Valley. They are also part of the same 101 Freeway corridor that cuts across the south Valley, leading to a common economy, cultural activities, etc. This district also includes Bell Canyon because that community has an entrance road from the Valley, not from Ventura County.

District “3” includes San Fernando Valley cities to the east of Los Angeles: Burbank and Glendale. Again, these are geographically in the Valley and putting them in the same district, alongside a Valley neighborhood like Tujunga, gives Valley voters power.

The Valley is bigger than one congressional district, but smaller than 3. For this reason, District “3” includes Griffith Park, the Hollywood Hills, and adjacent communities, which are all along the 101 Freeway.

At no point would residents of these hypothetical districts have to travel through the dreaded Sepulveda Pass in the south, which is largely impassible due to traffic. Likewise the Newhall Pass in the north. The Valley is surrounded by mountains of course. These districts recognize that fact and keep residents where they live, work and recreate; and not in any areas that may look close on paper but don’t account for the mountains or the congested pass routes.

These same principles can certainly be applied to the smaller Assembly districts and larger Senate districts.

When you draw districts that are entirely, or mostly, in the San Fernando Valley, you preserve one of the state’s most populous Communities of Interest (which would be one

of America's largest cities if incorporated) and empower a community that too often in its history has not had a voice.

Thank you.

Matt Rosenberg