Commissioners:

I am former two term Malibu City Council member and Mayor who took an active role in the 2011 redistricting process. I have not been following the redistricting this time as I should have, however, the last time I was very active in the process, attending 5 different sessions. At the final one, the commission was looking at either drawing a line for our Assembly district connecting Malibu with the coastal cities all the way down to Palos Verdes (it looks like that is on the table again) or a more compact district that did include Santa Monica but also included the COG cities. I was specifically asked which Malibu would prefer and said that we had far more in common with the Santa Monica mountains cities than we did with the rest of the beach cities. And they drew the lines that way. I still believe that!

Santa Monica may share a school district with us, hopefully not for too long, but not a lot else. The other SM Bay cities have a common interest in the health of the ocean, but again not much else that effects Malibu. When it comes to our unique environment, we have far more in common with the inland Los Virgenes/Malibu COG cities that we share these mountains with - fire and sheriffs departments which we all contract with, the environment and the shared threats of wildfires, the more rural character and a bigger collective voice than we would have as the smallest population appendage of the Santa Monica Bay coast. I would hope we can keep something close to the districts we have now. If that is where you are going then I'm with you.

I hope that the Commission finds these comments useful and that as the redistricting proceeds I have another chance to comment, hopefully in person.

Respectfully,
John Sibert