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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 5223
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91413
Information: (818) 377-4590
www.shermanoaks914.com
SOHA914@gmail.com

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www.facebook.com/soha914

August 30, 2021

Los Angeles City Council 2021 Redistricting Commission
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 275
Los Angeles, CA 90012
redistricting.lacity@lacity.org

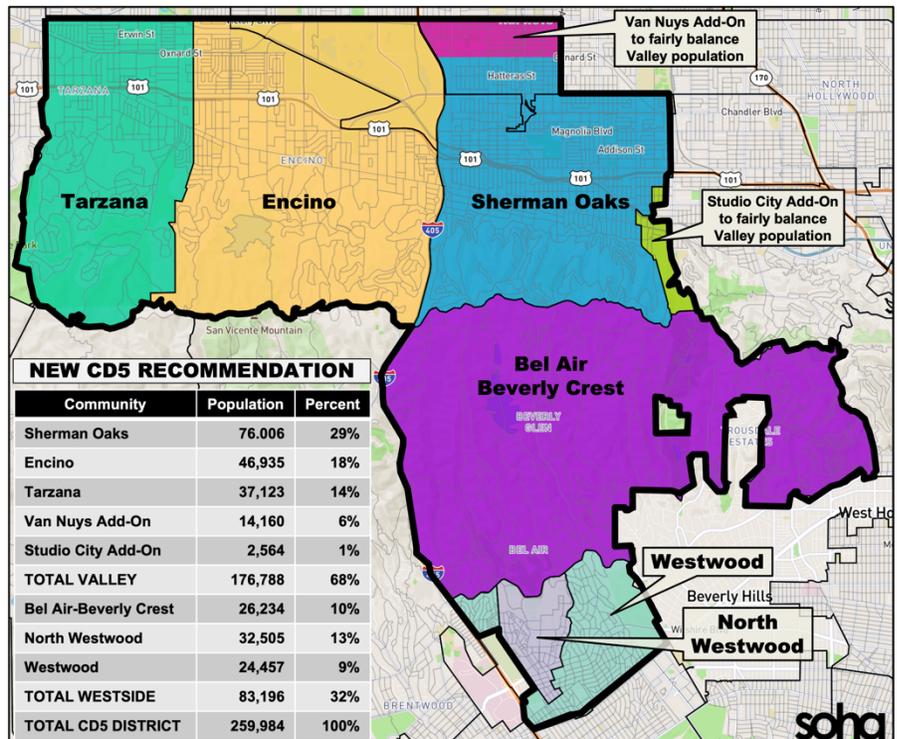
Subject: Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association Redistricting Recommendation for New CD5

Dear Commissioners,

Sherman Oaks is a united 76,000-person Community of Interest located on the southern border of the San Fernando Valley at the Sepulveda Pass. The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) has been a powerful voice in the community since 1964. We want the entire Sherman Oaks community to be part of a much revised single, Valley-contiguous, over-the-Pass Council District 5 (see map below) which has a fair and balanced two-thirds Valley-majority population. This New CD5 map and its supporting details are available on the Commission’s mapping software at <https://districtr.org/COI/40623>.

We worked with the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District, Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce, and communities of Encino, Tarzana, and Bel Air-Beverly Crest as we developed our map. New CD5 includes the complete unsplit Neighborhood Councils of Sherman Oaks, Encino, Tarzana, Bel Air-Beverly Crest, North Westwood, and Westwood, plus add-on areas in the Valley critical to balance population.

This letter provides our detailed recommendations and explanations for this significant New CD5 redistricting. The Valley did not get its fair share in 2011 redistricting and deserves it this time around.



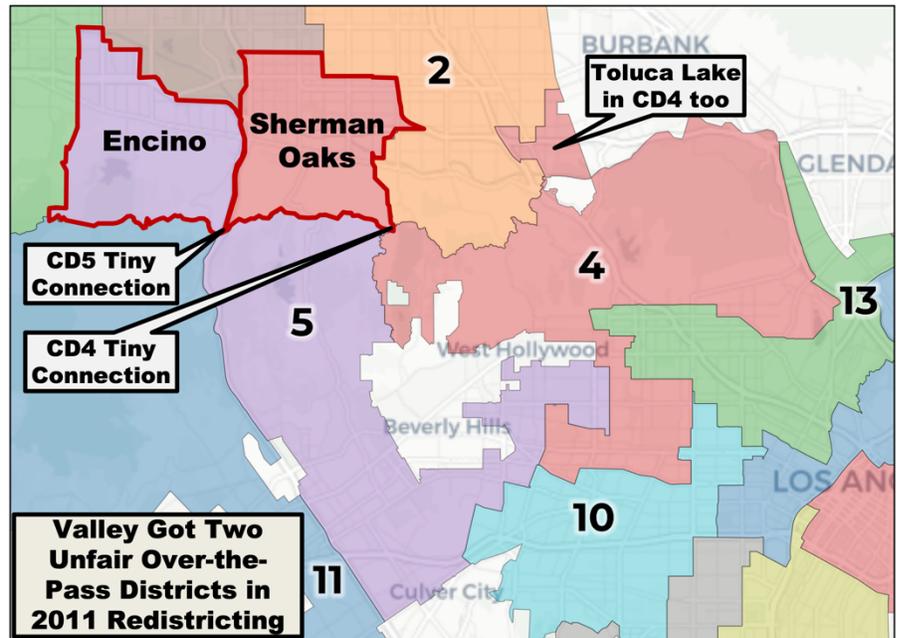
Two Inequitable Valley Over-the-Pass Districts in 2011 Redistricting

Sherman Oaks and Encino are the most vulnerable Valley communities during City Council redistricting because they are located where districts historically cross over the Sepulveda Pass to the Westside.

In 2011 redistricting, the Sherman Oaks and Encino Neighborhood Councils (NCs) were kept whole but joined to gerrymandered Westside districts through tiny sliver or “isthmus” connections. Sherman Oaks and Encino were unfairly isolated and disconnected from their adjacent Communities of Interest – on all four sides of both communities. CD4 also included Greater Toluca Lake, so the district was not even contiguous within the Valley. None of this was acceptable in 2011 and it must not happen again.

If properly redistricted by the 2011 Commission, the Valley would

have had a single, contiguous, over-the-Pass CD5 with a 62 percent Valley majority. Such a district could have elected its own Valley-based councilmember. But this didn’t happen, as documented in the Appendix G Minority Report from the 2011 Redistricting Commission Final Report. Instead, the Valley unfairly got two over-the-Pass districts and neither had a Valley majority. The 2011 Commission also disenfranchised about 28,000 Valley residents by unfairly increasing all full Valley district populations about 2.5 percent higher than the citywide average. The Valley got a double short end of the stick in 2011.



SOHA Redistricting Recommendations

SOHA’s two recommendations eliminate the inequities suffered by Sherman Oaks during 2011 redistricting and give the Valley an equitable fair share of council districts.

SOHA Recommendation 1. Single Contiguous Over-the-Pass Valley District – The Valley and Westside must share only one single council district that is fully contiguous and compact in the Valley. The district should primarily comprise complete Neighborhood Councils and communities to the maximum extent practicable. This ensures that Valley Communities of Interest are not isolated and that the Valley gets its fair share of representation on the City Council.

SOHA Recommendation 2. Fairly Balanced Valley District Populations – The average population of the five full Valley districts (CD2, CD3, CD6, CD7, and CD12) must be as close as practicable to the average population of all 15 council districts citywide. This ensures a fair balance of population between the Valley and the rest of the city. It also continues to allow the Commission to adjust the populations of individual council districts to correct imbalances, such as those due to census undercounts in the northeast Valley or East Los Angeles.

Our recommendations are consistent with the city’s foundational redistricting elements as described in the 2011 Redistricting Commission Final Report: (1) be as equal in population as practicable; (2) be drawn in conformance with state and federal law; (3) keep neighborhoods and Communities of Interest (COIs) intact to the extent feasible; (4) utilize natural boundaries or street lines to the extent feasible; and (5) be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent feasible.

SOHA 2021 Redistricting Recommendation for New CD5 – August 30, 2021

Recommendation 1 fairly and equitably fulfills both the Commission’s physical compactness and contiguity redistricting requirements. It keeps Communities of Interest whole and ensures connectivity with their natural and adjacent COIs. It also eliminates any taint of actual or perceived gerrymandering from 2011.

Recommendation 2 gives the Valley an equitable share of population in its districts and fulfills the redistricting population equality requirement. It simply ensures that the Valley gets treated the same as the rest of the city. Since the recommendation applies only to the overall average population of all full Valley districts, it does not constrain the 2021 Commission’s ability to adjust individual Valley district populations within the Commission’s ten-percent deviation allowance.

New CD5 Resulting from SOHA Recommendations

The results of our two recommendations are significant. They create a very different New Council District 5 than that from 2011 redistricting – a better, more appropriate district – as shown in our recommended New CD5 map (see page 1). New CD5 includes the complete unsplit NCs of Sherman Oaks, Encino, Tarzana, Bel Air-Beverly Crest, North Westwood, and Westwood, plus critical add-on areas in the Valley for correct population balancing. New CD5 is fully contiguous in the Valley. Its three major Valley communities share many interests and concerns, including the Ventura Boulevard commercial zone, hillsides, traffic congestion, fire protection, transportation, and transit. Sherman Oaks and Bel Air-Beverly Crest also share transit interests, especially for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project.

In New CD5, the Sherman Oaks community is whole and correctly includes POSO, Part of Sherman Oaks, bounded by the 405 freeway (west), Oxnard Street (north), Hazeltine Avenue (east), and Burbank Boulevard (south). POSO was officially added to the Sherman Oaks community by City Council action in July 2009 (Council File 08-2758). The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council does not include POSO but should. The current CD5 Chief of Staff resides in POSO.

Because New CD5 is contiguous within the Valley, Toluca Lake necessarily moves from CD4 to CD2, its natural and adjacent Community of Interest.

2020 legacy Census data lets this all happen. The 2020 City of Los Angeles total population is 3,898,725. Using Census data, SOHA estimated the 2020 Valley population at 1,476,502 and feels this is very close. We have asked the Commission and its contractor, Redistricting Partners, to provide and publish an official Valley population estimate. Based on these two populations, the Valley comprises about 38 percent of the city’s population and deserves this same fair proportion of council districts, as illustrated below.

Valley Population Is 38 Percent of LA City Population
This is the Fair Share of 2021 Council Districts that the Valley Deserves

$$\frac{\text{Valley Population } 1,476,502}{\text{Total City Population } 3,898,725} \times 15 \text{ Council Districts} = 5.68 \text{ Valley Districts}$$

This math demonstrates that the Valley should ideally have 5.68 Council Districts. This means the five full districts it already has (CD2, CD3, CD6, CD7, CD12) plus 68 percent of an additional single district. This district is New CD5 which has the ideal 68 percent Valley-majority population. With this majority, New CD5 could elect a Valley-based councilmember. That would be appropriate and wonderful.

Our recommended New CD5 map (page 1) shows population by community. We included Van Nuys and Studio City “add-on” areas to achieve 68 percent Valley population. The Westside has 32 percent. The total district population is 259,984, very close to the ideal district population of 259,916. We did a population-weighted calculation by community to determine Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) statistics for New CD5 (table at right). The statistics are consistent with those from current CD4 and current CD5.

2020 Census Legacy Data	Recommended New CD5	Current CD4*	Current CD5*
Citizen Voting Age Population	186,706	188,803	192,976
Other	72.6%	68.5%	71.5%
Hispanic	13.8%	13.9%	11.0%
Asian	9.7%	11.8%	13.1%
Black	3.9%	5.8%	4.3%

* Current CD boundary with 2020 Census Legacy data

Westside Decides the Westside for New CD5

On the Westside, our New CD5 map shows only examples of how the district might be configured. SOHA feels the Westside configuration is a Westside decision. However, the three NCs that we included – Bel Air-Beverly Crest, North Westwood, and Westwood – do make good sense geographically and are complete districts with no splitting required. We were able to rejoin the Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC which had been split between CD4 and CD5 in 2011. The total Westside population of these three NCs is also a perfect match to make the total district population ideal.

We considered an alternate configuration for the Westside portion of New CD5. This included the complete Brentwood NC, which makes excellent geographic sense. Brentwood would extend from Encino in a wide swath on the west side of the 405 freeway. However, we did not choose this configuration because the Brentwood NC population was not a good match. We would have had to eliminate the North Westwood NC and split the Westwood NC, which we didn't think appropriate. But the Commission may want to consider this option.

New CD5 Is Fair and a Good Fit

All in all, SOHA thinks our recommended New CD5 map offers the Valley its fair share and fulfills the Commission's redistricting mission very well. We are very excited about our recommended map and the opportunity to again join or neighboring communities in a single compact and contiguous district.

It's a busy time for redistricting and new information is becoming available almost daily. SOHA may update its recommendation if further important information and/or community input become available.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit our recommended New CD5 map. We are all working together for a better city.

Respectfully,



Bob Anderson
Board Member and Chair, Redistricting Committee
Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association
BobHillsideOrdinance@gmail.com
(213) 364-7470

cc: Commissioner Alexandra Suh (CD4 appointee), Commissioner Rocky Delgadillo (CD5 appointee), Rafael Gonzalez (Commission Director of Community Outreach and Engagement), Councilmember Nithya Raman (CD4), Najeeba Syeed (CD4 Chief of Staff), Andrea Conant (CD4 Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director), Councilmember Paul Koretz (CD5), Joan Pelico (CD5 Chief of Staff), David Hersch (CD5 Deputy Chief of Staff), Councilmember Paul Krekorian (CD2), Karo Torossian (CD2 Chief of Staff), Councilmember Bob Blumenfield (CD3), Lisa Hansen (CD3 Chief of Staff), Council President Nury Martinez (CD6), Ackley Padilla (CD6 Chief of Staff), Jeffrey Hartsough (President, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council), Tammy Scher (Chair, Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce), Leslie Elkan (President, Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District), Jodie Francisco (Redistricting Committee Chair, Encino Neighborhood Council), Eliot Cohen (President, Homeowners of Encino), Dave Garfinkle (Land Use Chair, Tarzana Neighborhood Council), Travis Longcore (Redistricting Task Force, Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council), Shawn Bayliss (Executive Director, Bel Air Association), Stuart Waldman (Valley Industry and Commerce Association)