



13654 Victory Blvd., #136 Valley Glen, California 91401
www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

10/14/2021

CIS Re: CF 20-0668

The Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to oppose the configuration of Greater Valley Glen on Map K 2.5 and asks that the Commission support the GVG placement for City Council representation as an identified Community and with its natural extensions to its neighboring Communities of Interest. The GVGC authorizes the following statement to the Redistricting Commission both in writing and condensed wording for a verbal presentation as attached.

Statement

The proposed map, designed to be solely data driven from the 2020 census ignores the core sense of Community for Greater Valley Glen, its Neighborhood Council, and the Distinct Community of Valley Glen as recognized by the City of Los Angeles and State of California. This proposed map violates the City redistricting ordinance 204(d) ensuring that such redistricting "shall keep neighborhoods and communities intact". Greater Valley Glen would be one of the only Communities in the Valley to have its City Council representation trisected between 3 different Council Districts, disregarding the very acknowledgment of it being a Distinct Community and disenfranchising thousands of constituents by leaving them with three different City Councilmembers they may have never had the option to vote for.

This would severely hinder our ability as a Neighborhood Council to adequately represent these constituents, our Stakeholders, while further complicating Los Angeles City governance of and service to the Valley.

As an example, the dividing line between proposed District 6 and proposed District 2-or-4 is the Tujunga Wash, which traverses the center of Greater Valley Glen. It is a US Army Corp of Engineers man-made Flood Channel. It includes a 2 mile long Greenway, with over \$30MM of landscape improvements completed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The community of Valley Glen worked very hard with this agency on the landscape plans for the Greenway. Within the Greenway and Flood Control Channel, lies the Great Wall of Los Angeles, the longest Mural in the World.

Valley Glen takes pride in the man-made wonders located in our community. But with these wonders chopped up into three Council Districts, it becomes significantly more difficult for our community to simply remember which Council Office to reach out to when there is a maintenance issue along these improvements. What of all of the countless other needs of our Stakeholders that would be split between 3 different Councilmembers? The fact is that the mapping creates non-compact boundaries for the Valley Glen community.



13654 Victory Blvd., #136 Valley Glen, California 91401
www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

In addition, we cooperate with and share both demographic and commercial, residential, educational, arts, and recreation values with our neighboring communities of North Hollywood and Valley Village significantly more than we do with Canoga Park or Hollywood Hills. It was with great and collective effort from our Neighborhood Council and our neighboring Communities of Interest that we drafted and submitted to Councilmember Krekorian just this year a comprehensive Community Benefit Agreement regarding homelessness in the area and management of the Tiny Homes Village project in Alexandria Park. We need representation indicative of our existing community bonds.

It is especially disappointing that this proposed mapping disregards all the effort by the Valley Glen community to benefit from its diversity. Ethnically, Valley Glen is a "highly diverse" and moderate income community. Its diversity comes with Latinos at 45%, Whites at 40%, Asians at 5%, African-Americans at 4% and others at 6%. It is also high within the City for the percentage of foreign born (49%), with Mexico (27%) and Armenia (14%) being the most common foreign places of birth. The effect of trisecting Valley Glen splits up Latino and Armenian Stakeholders, giving this proposed map an unintended and unfortunate negative racial impact. The City Council must be inclusive and not divisive.

Based on these issues and to maintain the diversity integrity of the Community of Valley Glen and to preserve our area's compact borders, we ask that you consider our recommendation on your proposed map as follows:

On the west, the boundary runs along Hazeltine Avenue from Burbank Boulevard to Vanowen Street. At Vanowen Street, the boundary runs east to Woodman Avenue, then north to Sherman Way. At Sherman Way, the boundary runs east to the Tujunga Wash, then south along the Tujunga Wash to Vanowen Street. At Vanowen Street, the boundary runs east to Hollywood Freeway. The boundary then runs south along the Hollywood Freeway (170) to Burbank Blvd. At Burbank Boulevard, the boundary runs west to Hazeltine Avenue.

Since addition of this area over-populates the District by 10,000 to 15,000 people, please consider elimination of the Shadow Hills and nearby areas that meander southwest of Shadow Hills in the proposed Council District 2 or 4 area. This meandering consists of portions Sun Valley. The addition of Shadow Hills and this portion of Sun Valley to the Council District 6 would constitute an even exchange in population and would also make Council District 6 mapping appear more compact