



# Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Inc.

Post Office Box 353, Agoura Hills, California 91301

*The **voice** and conscience of the Santa Monica Mountains since 1968*

## Delegates and Friends of the Federation:

Please see a very important message from our Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky below. It should be disseminated to all of *your* and *our* Santa Monica Mountain stakeholders/residents.

It is imperative to attend the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Redistricting hearing on [Tuesday, September 6](#) to save our Third District, our Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and our Santa Monica Mountains. There are no second chances, this is it and we need bodies to convey our outrage.

At risk is everything we have worked so hard to accomplish in the Santa Monica Mountains in the last two decades and our future. After a **six month** Redistricting process Supervisor Molina took everyone by surprise and in a *last minute* ploy to beat the deadline submitted boundary maps that create **entirely new** gerrymandered County Supervisorial Districts (see T1 map). This late proposal, as well as another plan by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas totally contradicts strong public advocacy during the process for keeping our communities together.

Our Third District has been completely redrawn! The Santa Monica Mountains would no longer even be in Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's Third District but in the Fourth Supervisorial District represented by Supervisor Knabe (moving us back toward the way the District lines looked in the 1980's).

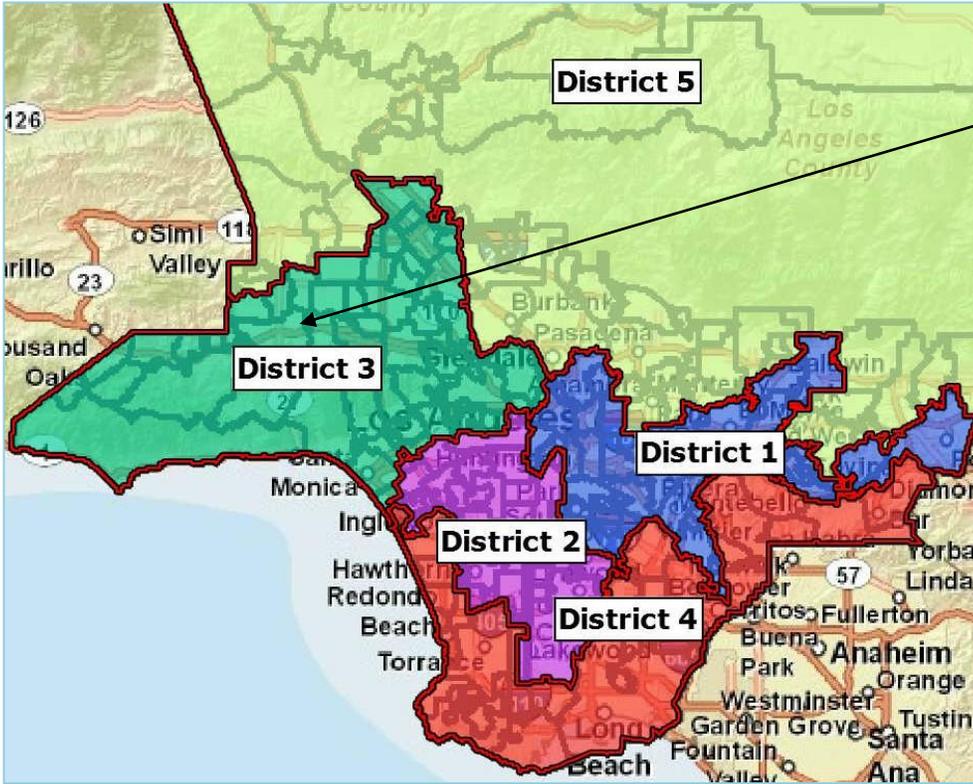
Needless to say the potential impacts and repercussions of this are profound....and totally unacceptable. The effects would be immediate and within 30 days we could lose Zev as our Supervisor and get someone we did not even vote for. Any such sudden change in the middle of a supervisorial term would disrupt our ability to have a consistent voice on development issues and would threaten ongoing projects we are working on with the county—such as the completion of the North Area Communities Standards District, the Dark Skies Ordinance, and funding for Operation Safe Canyons.

### [Hearing Details:](#)

[Tuesday, September 6 at 1:00 p.m.](#) in Room 381 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple Street in downtown Los Angeles.

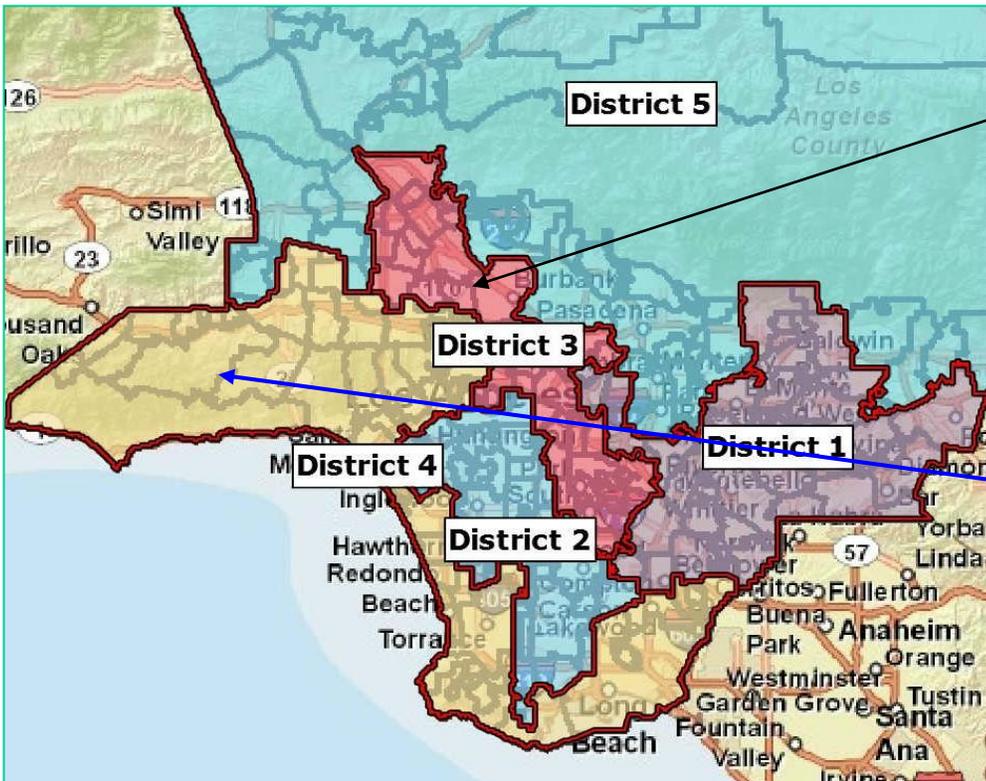
**Transportation** - We are arranging transportation and chartering a very comfortable bus. The bus will leave at 11:30 a.m. Please call for details and to confirm your reservations **ASAP** with our Coordinator at 818.591.8500 or reply to this e-mail.

### Current Supervisorial Districts



Our Third District

### Supervisor Molina’s Proposed Supervisorial Districts (T1 Plan)



Our Third District has been radically redrawn and gerrymandered to exclude the Santa Monica Mountains and other areas.

The Santa Monica Mountains would become part of Supervisor Knabe’s Fourth District.

## From Our Third District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky:

Friends,

I'm writing today about a matter of great urgency—the redistricting of Los Angeles County supervisorial district boundaries. District lines need to be changed to equalize population and ensure compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act. But two redistricting plans have been proposed that would needlessly dismantle our Third District community, destroying decades of cooperation and jeopardizing our progress in the crucial areas of transportation, homelessness, land use and so much more.

Let me be clear: I believe strongly in the letter and spirit of the landmark Voting Rights Act, which over the decades has opened the halls of power to minority groups across the land. It requires that voting-age minorities who are citizens be given an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. I know we can create this district in good faith without resorting to gerrymandering tactics that would force an astonishing 3.5 million residents countywide into new districts while tearing apart communities with clear common interests.

Under one of the plans, called T1, the Third District would stretch southeasterly from Sylmar through Hollywood, Downtown, Boyle Heights, Florence-Firestone and into Lynwood. Most of the Westside and the South and West San Fernando Valley would be placed in another district.

Under the other plan, known as S2, the Third District would still include the south San Fernando Valley, the Westside and the Las Virgenes area. We'd lose the north and central Valley and gain the South Bay, Wilmington and Long Beach.

In either case, fully half the Third District's current population would be shifted elsewhere, replaced by roughly the same number of residents who'd be new to the district. What's more, both plans would carve up the San Fernando Valley for the first time among three supervisorial districts. (For links to the proposed maps and more insight into the redistricting effort, please read my recent blog [here](#).)

None of these changes would affect me personally. Because of term limits, I'm now serving my last term as a supervisor. I'm speaking out so that you, my constituents, will be best served in the years ahead by a redistricting process that is fair, responsible and consistent with the law.

It's critical that you be heard now. I encourage you to attend and speak at the public hearing on these redistricting plans, to be held Tuesday, September 6, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 381 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple Street, in downtown L.A. If you can't attend, please communicate your concerns to the board members by e-mailing them to [commserv@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:commserv@bos.lacounty.gov).

Below, I've listed a number of points and principles in which I strongly believe. Please feel free to let your views be known during your appearance before the Board of Supervisors or in your e-mails.

- The Voting Rights Act is a cornerstone of our democracy, which requires that we protect the voting rights of minorities. This can be accomplished without dismembering established communities of interest.
- Plans T1 and S2 would each move nearly 3.5 million people from one supervisorial district to another, destroying established relationships and seriously setting back progress on important community issues.

- The Third District unites three adjacent, interlocking communities of interest: the greater Westside, the San Fernando Valley and the Las Virgenes region, all of them bound together by the Santa Monica Mountain range. This region is topographically, geographically, economically and socially cohesive and compact. It should be kept together.

The two proposed plans would adversely impact the tremendous strides we've made in a variety of important areas, listed below. Again, please feel free to share your views on any of these issues.

### **Dividing communities**

Plans T1 and S2 would divide the San Fernando Valley into three supervisorial districts instead of two at present. This would be a serious setback for the Valley, which has fought hard to maintain its own identity.

### **Mass transit**

Plans T1 and S2 could undermine the progress our region has made towards rapid transit and could threaten our ability to expeditiously complete the subway to the Westside and the Exposition Light Rail to Santa Monica.

### **Homelessness**

Plans T1 and S2 threaten to reverse the pioneering and highly effective work we've done to combat homelessness in Hollywood, the Westside and the San Fernando Valley through permanent supportive housing

### **Health care for the uninsured**

Plans T1 and S2 could undermine the network of public-private partnership clinics now serving the Valley, Hollywood and the Westside, potentially compromising health care access for thousands of uninsured residents.

### **The environment**

The Third District includes some of the county's greatest environmental and recreational resources, including Griffith Park and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Because of the district's beautiful natural setting, its residents share an interest in resolving environmental problems. Keeping the mountains in a district that is compact and environmentally conscious will help ensure political leadership that is sensitive to these issues.

### **Social services**

Plan T1 could easily disrupt social services networks. These networks include both public and private non-profit agencies that provide such wide-ranging services as mental health assistance, family preservation, CalFresh (formerly food stamps) and legal services for the poor. Plans T1 and S2 could quickly dismantle these partnerships, causing some of our most vulnerable residents to fall through holes in the safety net.

### **Juvenile Probation**

Plan T1 would remove three juvenile probation camps from the Third District, threatening the progress we've made in improving outcomes for incarcerated youth.

## **Emergency preparedness**

The Third District, as home to the entire Santa Monica Mountains range, is no stranger to natural disasters. Our communities have made huge strides in learning from, preparing for and guarding against wildfires, floods and other emergency conditions. Keeping the Santa Monica Mountains as the centerpiece of a compact district would help ensure political leadership that is sensitive to these issues.

## **Rivers and watersheds**

The Third District includes a large portion of the L.A. River Watershed (in the Valley) and the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed. Keeping these together in one compact, environmentally conscious district would help ensure political leadership that understands the need to resolve watershed issues countywide.

As your neighbor and representative, I'd like to thank you in advance for helping to keep our Third District together. I hope to see you at the hearing on September 6. We need to make our presence felt and heard. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at [zev@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:zev@bos.lacounty.gov).

Sincerely,

Zev

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Read more details in Zev's blog at: <http://zev.lacounty.gov/blog/seriously-crossing-the-line>

To view more detailed maps, go to <http://redistricting.lacounty.gov/>