

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/15/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

#### Impact Information

Date: 11/04/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0668-s7

Agenda Date: 10/15/2021

Item Number: IV. A.

Summary: On 10/15/21 The Reseda Neighborhood council voted to send each of our three Community Impact Statements to the Los Angeles City Council. This Community Impact Statement was passed on 10/15/2021 under item IV.A. of our agenda. This Community Impact Statement was passed via a vote 10 yes and 2 abstain.



## Reseda Neighborhood Council

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**MARIA SKELTON**

**MAYA WHITECLOUD**

The Reseda Neighborhood Council would first like to recognize and thank the leadership of the North Hollywood Neighborhood Council, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council, and the Greater Valley Glen Council who have joined us in opposing map K2.5. We cannot, however, express our thanks to the Redistricting Commission.

The Reseda Neighborhood Council cannot express strongly enough how blatantly this commission, like good little puppets, is kowtowing to special interest groups and entitled communities at the expense of disadvantaged and marginalized communities. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the actions and lack of actions taken at the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the Redistricting Commission. The blatant classism and racism on display in this meeting would shock even the most cynical conscience.

### **Failure to value community rooted knowledge**

We condemn that, despite numerous requests from stakeholders pointing out how the current map K2.5 disenfranchises the *vast majority* of current CD3 residents, and, *even more importantly*, the most powerless and ignored stakeholders of CD3, *no change* or even *effort to change* was made to appropriately assign Council District 3 to the northerly district, and CD 2/4 to the southerly district. This *in spite of the fact* that this would be the only *morally correct* thing to do by dint of what this Commission states are its guiding lights. We condemn that this commission repeatedly fails to post critical Community Impact Statements submissions on their website, which further evidences the commission's failure to engage and inform the community.

### **Failure to center equity, compassion, respect, and dignity of communities in decision-making**

We condemn that, despite the clear point made by residents from all over the city how important it is that a Council District needs to have public assets to be successful, this Commission, for *no*



*valid redistricting reason other than political favoritism*, like a Robin Hood in Reverse, taking from the poor and giving to the rich, stripped away *one* of the *only* assets the new northerly district has, the Sepulveda Basin and associated facilities, and puts it into the southerly district which is already Asset Rich with Warner Center, Pierce College and Ventura Boulevard, Encino Reservoir and the Sherman Oaks Galleria. What motivation could there be for this unwarranted racially and class motivated supremacist land grab, spearheaded by Commissioners Katz, Cardenas, and Ali, other than to placate the representatives of the wealthy and entitled at the expense of working class communities? What's to stop the commission from ripping away the only *other* asset the district would have, the Van Nuys Airport?

#### **Failure to ensure the data utilized captures Los Angeles' communities of interest**

The density of the proposed 2 or 4 council district cannot be overlooked. The newly proposed Council District 3 contains neighborhoods with densities all below 7,000 people per square mile ranging from 3,700-6,700 people per square mile, whereas the new 2/4 district only has density above 7500 people per square mile, ranging from 7,750 - 12,240 people per square mile and yet the less densely populated district was awarded the Sepulveda Basin park. To be clear both Lake Balboa and Encino claim the Sepulveda Basin park as being within their neighborhood council boundaries. It is not solely within the boundaries of Encino. Every single neighborhood in the 2 or 4 district is considered park deprived. 80% of the Canoga and Winnetka study area is considered high or very high need for parks and 60% of the Reseda Van Nuys study area is considered high or very high need for parks. Conversely, the Encino -Tarzana area has a 34% rating of high or very high need. The Woodland Hills study area has a 23% rating and the Sherman Oaks study area has a 19% rating of high or very high need. Our new district clearly has a high need for green space based on our differing densities and yet the commission redistricted the Sepulveda Basin park, a decision not based on equity or data.

#### **Failure to ensure that voters are equitably represented by someone they elected**

We condemn that, no matter how this proposed map shakes out, if the Northerly District is not assigned as CD3, *as it should be*, *neither* of the potential Councilmembers would be representing a *single* person that voted for them. In other words, *zero percent* of the electorate in this new district would be represented by a councilmember they voted for. By assigning the Northerly District as CD3 and the Southerly District as CD4 the percentage of residents being represented by the Council Member they elected is increased *dramatically* and this is the *only* configuration that can be equitably and morally justified.

#### **Failure to respect due process, fairness, and adherence to the Law (Brown Act)**

We condemn the *illegal* Special Treatment this Commission engaged in by allowing every representative of *specific special interest groups* in attendance to speak at the beginning of public comment while the balance of public speakers are relegated to a lottery of every fourth speaker. By allotting a large swath of public speaking time to every member of these unagendized special interest groups, significant time was consumed which left *numerous* members of the public unable to comment.

#### **Failure to embrace creative and respectful tension to reach just decisions**

We condemn the disrespectful, belittling and *patronizing* manner in which the Chairman, and by their *inaction* the rest of the commissioners save Commissioner Cagna, treated Commissioner Goldberg, the only Commissioner who has the courage to call this Redistricting Commission to account for the many wrongs they are perpetrating, and who seems to be the only



commissioner dedicated to making sure this process is handled in an intelligent and thoughtful manner with proper public transparency and input.

To put it bluntly, if this Commission does not immediately correct the two biggest moral crimes they have committed with this map by designating the northerly new district of Canoga Park, Winnetka, Reseda and Lake Balboa as CD3, and returning the Sepulveda Basin and Facilities to that district, *we condemn this commission as nothing but charlatans, classists, racists, and political puppets* more interested in pleasing their political benefactors than in representing the stakeholders of Los Angeles. We also demand the special meeting that Commissioner Jackie Goldberg requested to review these critical 2 and 4 council districts.

To reiterate the point, the Redistricting Commission has failed to adhere to its own operating principles including, but not limited to the items addressed in this Community Impact Statement

- Failure to value community rooted knowledge
- Failure to center equity, compassion, respect, and dignity of communities in decision-making
- Failure to ensure the data utilized captures Los Angeles' communities of interest
- Failure to ensure that voters are equitably represented by someone they elected
- Failure to respect due process, fairness, and adherence to the Law (Brown Act)
- Failure to embrace creative and respectful tension to reach just decisions