

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(12) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/26/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

#### Impact Information

Date: 10/26/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0668

Agenda Date: 10/26/2021

Item Number: VII. B.

Summary: Please see attached statement from the Reseda Neighborhood Council regarding our opposition to the draft LAUSD redistricting maps.



## Reseda Neighborhood Council

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[Council File 20-0668](#)

Redistricting Process / 2020 Decennial United States Census Data

### **Reseda Neighborhood Council position on Draft LAUSD Redistricting Maps**

The Reseda Neighborhood Council, understanding that the Commission's work is nearly complete, nonetheless requests a minor change to the currently proposed maps. We also would like to raise a red flag on the currently circulating revised Sanchez map.

#### **Maintain communities of interest**

As of this writing, the publicly available draft maps are not in compliance with the Commission's goal to "[[maintain communities of interest as much as possible...](#)]" In accordance with this principle, Reseda must remain in a single district. Whichever map is adopted, Reseda must remain whole and not be split into two school board districts. In addition, we desire to stay with other neighborhoods located in the valley rather than be included with coastal communities that do not reflect the needs of our students. We do not believe that students in the Pacific Palisades reflect the characteristics of students in Reseda nor do they face the same struggles. If these maps reflect a desire to keep communities of schools together, then we also suggest there should be a similar focus on keeping neighborhoods together. Indeed, areas such as Studio City and Sherman Oaks are more similar to District 4 than they are District 3 and this change could easily be made and allow for contiguous maps. This would respect both communities of schools and neighborhoods.



## **Promote civic engagement**

Moreover, the publicly available draft maps are not in compliance with the Commission's stated value of promoting civic engagement. The draft maps split Reseda into two districts (3 and 4). This disenfranchises the portion of Reseda which will have their LAUSD representative changed. This is particularly concerning, since under the current, Commission-Approved, City Council redistricting proposal, Reseda is similarly changed and our entire neighborhood is similarly disenfranchised by having our representative switched out from under us. Should our community have to face a drastic change to both of our elected representatives?

## **Citizens of the World Charter School Issue - Politics must not drive the redistricting process**

The decision to split Reseda between two LAUSD districts, one of which we have never been associated with, is puzzling. That is, it is puzzling until you understand that there is a controversial charter school, Citizens of the World Charter, taking space from one of our elementary schools, Shirley Avenue Elementary School. Splitting Reseda between two school districts appears motivated by a desire to move Shirley Avenue Elementary School into a district with a representative more friendly to Citizens of the World Charter School, which shares space with Shirley Avenue. The Citizens of the World Charter School space sharing arrangement has been a hot button issue in the local area in part due to funds owed by this charter school to LAUSD totaling over \$1 million for over allocation penalties. These over allocations have stripped Shirley Elementary of their therapy rooms and robotics program. Citizens of the World Charter school takes resources from our local school and local children and yet enrolls significantly less English language learners, less children with disabilities, and less socioeconomically disadvantaged children compared to Shirley Avenue. These maps would "resolve" the issue by removing the elected representative from the area. This is exactly the kind of thing any redistricting process that claims to be independent must avoid.

There is no apolitical reason why Shirley Avenue Elementary should be split from the rest of Reseda. Please take this opportunity to play fair.

## **Double Disenfranchisement – Sanchez Map**

The Reseda Neighborhood Council is categorically opposed to the late arriving Sanchez map. This late-coming map does not allow for significant community participation and moreover it does the expressed opposite request of the Reseda citizens who have voiced their opposition to disenfranchisement through the redistricting process. The passing of this map would represent a double disenfranchisement for much of our neighborhood as the proposed city council map also strips our neighborhood of our elected city representative. The LAUSD commission must not be complicit in stripping our minority majority neighborhood of yet another representative. Historically, Reseda has been part of districts 3 and 6. We have never been part of district 4. Does the commission believe it is appropriate to strip our neighborhood due to our higher poverty rates or perhaps our higher diversity? We deserve a true say and a true voice in this process. It is shamelessly unacceptable that the commission would even present such a map.



This map again does not prioritize equity or the purported values of the redistricting commission.

Reseda must remain entirely in district 3 as we share no common interests with district 4 and have no history of being within that district. Our higher poverty rate and higher amount of ESL students do not share communities of interest with the Pacific Palisades, Brentwood and Bel-Air. We have no faith that our schools and students will be well represented competing among the voices who reside predominantly over the hill. Moreover, we strongly believe that it is in the best interest of San Fernando Valley students to be kept whole in one district rather than having multiple districts which cross the 405.

### **Independent Redistricting**

The Reseda Neighborhood Council is in agreement with the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board that has called for a truly independent redistricting commission. Political self interest has superseded the needs of our community throughout this process. We ask this commission to respect and honor the voices of our community. Do not disenfranchise us and keep our community whole!

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