



CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (MAC)
c/o County of Ventura
625 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Members of the Council:
Chair R. Scott Horn
Richard Gaz
Cecily Rock
Edward J. Villa, Sr.
Wendy Zimmerman

November 10, 2021

Chair Linda Parks
Supervisor, Ventura County District 2
Ventura County Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003

RE: Ventura County Redistricting

Dear Chair Parks, Ventura County Supervisors and County Staff:

The unincorporated community of Casa Conejo was the first tract of homes built in Newbury Park during the early and mid-1960's. Sixty years later, this community of 1000 single-family, one-story homes with, according to the 2020 census 3,267 people, proudly retains its close-knit family and suburban neighborhood feel. Casa Conejo still has original owners who moved to Newbury Park to raise their families away from the City of Los Angeles. We have many long-time residents who are choosing to remain in their homes that were purchased in the 1960's and 70's for the rest of their lives. Turnover is low. Our roots run deep.

Casa Conejo is the first neighborhood immediately on the South side of the 101 Freeway off the Wendy Drive exit. We are the gateway to Newbury Park at the West end of the Conejo Valley. We are either the last area people see when traveling Northbound to go over the Conejo Grade, or the first area travelers see heading Southbound from Camarillo. The big hill formed by the end of the Santa Monica Mountains range clearly separates our valley from the Oxnard Plain. Many of us view the Santa Monica Mountains as extensions of our backyards and navigate by our landmark Boney Mountain. Our community is bounded by Old Conejo Road and the 101 Freeway on the North, Borchard Rd. on the South, Jenny Drive on the West, and Sequoia Middle School and Virginia Dr. on the East. A copy of the Casa Conejo map from the District 2 website is attached for your reference. We are an island completely surrounded by the City of Thousand Oaks that grew up around us.

Casa Conejo residents pay their wastewater to City of Thousand Oaks and receive water from California American Water. We reside in the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Conejo Valley Unified School District. The community is served by Ventura County Fire and the Thousand Oaks Police Department contracted through the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, and also by the California Highway Patrol. Outside of Newbury Park most people believe Casa Conejo is just part of the Newbury Park section of Thousand Oaks. Most people don't realize that we are an unincorporated community.

As we are so closely tied to Thousand Oaks and greatly impacted by what happens in Thousand Oaks, it is imperative that Casa Conejo belongs to the same Supervisorial district as the City of Thousand Oaks. It is also imperative that Thousand Oaks be kept intact in District 2 and not split as some proposals that are focused on other areas of the County would do. It would become impossible for Casa Conejo residents to be effectively represented if any of these divisions were to occur. The Casa Conejo MAC has worked closely with Supervisor Parks since the MAC was formed on September 16, 2009. The Casa Conejo MAC expects to continue to work closely with her successor to advocate for Casa Conejo residents. This is our only voice in government at the

City and County level. We must be in a district that provides us with the opportunity to be seen, heard, and have all of our local governmental needs met.

Further, it is the position of the Casa Conejo MAC that all portions of the Conejo Valley in Ventura County's borders should remain in District 2 in their entirety. The Conejo Valley cities and other unincorporated areas, such as Oak Park, are tied together by much more than just the 101 Freeway and valley topography. We are not just contiguous areas. We share economic interests, education, recreation, emergency services, transit and so much more with our Conejo Valley neighbors. We are proud to say we live in the Conejo Valley. We value our open spaces highly and are very protective of our wildlife, clean air and mountain views in our area that is cooled by ocean breezes. We are suburban and business oriented with a growing high/bio tech and industrial profile. We appreciate our agricultural neighbors on the other side of the Conejo Grade, but are very different from their population and priorities. Our lifestyles are quite different, contributing to a diversity of land use and diversity of peoples that makes Ventura County special. The Conejo Valley is an important part of our identity and all of the areas in the Conejo Valley belong together in District 2.

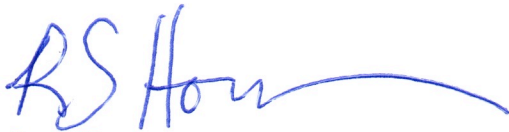
The expression "Out of sight, out of mind" is a reality. Neither Casa Conejo nor any other area in the Conejo Valley should be assigned to a district dominated by the Simi Valley nor attached to a district based on the Oxnard plain on the other side of the mountains. We are not like Simi Valley that stretches along the 118 Freeway and its neighbor Moorpark. The rivalries and differences between Simi and Thousand Oaks are real and longstanding. We are different beyond our locations that are linked pretty much only by the 23 Freeway and a street that changes its name from Olson in Thousand Oaks to Madera in Simi. We don't share government services with Simi. The focus of our lives is different. Putting any part of the Conejo in the Simi district would create friction, not harmony, and would result in diminished representation.

No plan that splits up Thousand Oaks and or any part of the Conejo Valley into two or more districts is acceptable to Casa Conejo. Splitting up the Conejo Valley would be extremely harmful to our interests and would deny us effective governmental representation. It would drown out our voice and likely diminish our level of service at the County level on which unincorporated Casa Conejo must rely and depend. We belong together, and in fact, function very much as a whole from Casa Conejo at Wendy Drive in Newbury Park all the way through Oak Park and the Los Angeles County border. As such, we don't just ask, we insist, that you consider and protect our rights and interests in this redistricting process every bit as much as any other area in the County.

Thank you for your attention and anticipated support and understanding.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council



R. Scott Horn
Chairman

Attachment

RSH/wz



Casa Conejo

