

Community of Interest Form

Community Name: West Valley cities

Questions:

1.

There is a strong connection between Saratoga and Los Gatos/Monte Sereno in the area of community services and its providers, in senior affairs, in students attending West Valley College, and in Asian American first and second generation citizens. These groups who have been and continue to be closely connected and work closely together represent a strong community of interest, particularly for seniors and for the disadvantaged in such areas as senior nutrition programs, senior communications, adult day care, adult recreation, senior transportation, economically disadvantaged care support, food banks, housing assistance, community health services, and domestic violence support. Groups in Campbell and Cupertino are also associated with these community activities; an example is the West Valley Community Services organization that is officially located in Cupertino but runs weekly mobile food bank and care support in Saratoga and Los Gatos and well as provides housing and other assistance throughout the West Valley geographic area. In addition to the continuing close communication and cooperation between nonprofit service providers in Los Gato and Saratoga and there is strong support and communication between the Town/City administrators as they work to provide support for seniors and address other community issues.

2.

The issue is that in each of the newly contractor proposed Maps X, Y, and Z the West Valley cities are divided with Los Gatos separated into D, the South Valley area (Gilroy, Morgan Hill, south San Jose), and Saratoga in B or E (northwest part of SCC). Saratoga, Monte Sereno, Los Gatos cover a very compact residential area (Cupertino and Campbell might also be considered part of this area).

3.

See above and also my previous additional examples in COI testimony #2. There are many important issues for both the West Valley cities and for the South Valley cities, and these are different. For example, in the West Valley the R.Y.D.E. transportation initiative was initiated in the West Valley area of Saratoga, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno with the support and seed money assistance of the BOS. This program to provide previously unfilled needs for senior transportation has been highly successful. Similarly there are other and quite different needs in Gilroy and Morgan Hill which have been fulfilled by other approaches (including Sourcewise and local community shuttle assistance). As was testified in the District 1 commissioner presentations at the Oct. 13 Commission Meeting the same concern from the other side was strongly expressed that Los Gato is not a COI that belongs with Gilroy, Morgan Hill and the South Valley and this current combination in District 1 must be changed.

4.

The current combining the West Valley Town of Los Gatos in area D of Maps X, Y, Z creates a problem for that Supervisor to properly represent both Los Gatos and the South Valley and this is felt by both Los Gatos and the South Valley cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill. Moving Los Gatos out of D could be compensated by including more of East San Jose and the mountain regions. Although I am a member of a variety of community organizations, the opinion expressed here is strictly my person viewpoint.

Name: Tom Picraux Email:

District in which I reside: District 1