

April 3, 2023

Mayor Jason Gibbs and Councilmembers City of Santa Clarita 23920 Valencia Blvd., Suite 300 Santa Clarita, California 91355

**SUBJECT: City of Santa Clarita District Map 2023** 

Dear Mayor Gibbs and Councilmembers:

The Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce is the largest business membership organization in the Santa Clarita Valley representing more than a 65,000-member workforce. We serve as "The Voice of Business" working as the leading business advocacy organization in the third largest city in the County of Los Angeles.

We believe the City of Santa Clarita is run efficiently and with a council that is attentive to both business and resident needs. This is evident by the fact that we have been consistently rated as a top business friendly city and a city ranked as one of the happiest as well as safest place to live.

Since the city's founding in 1987, we have had the privilege of each of our elected councilmembers serving the entire City of Santa Clarita. However, we understand and appreciate the leadership from the City Council in making the difficult decision to move forward with creating Council Districts to avoid the lengthy and costly litigation that would have cost taxpayer's tens of millions of dollars with little likelihood of success.

With the joint draft map published, the SCV Chamber is suggesting some very minor cleanups of the district boundaries to ensure communities of interest are kept together. We are not suggesting large or wholesale changes to the proposed joint draft map. We believe our suggested changes preserves the integrity of the majority Latino district.

The following minor changes were proposed in the Chamber's submitted map via DRA 2020 software:

- We suggest keeping everything south of Soledad Canyon Rd. and north of Golden Triangle Rd. to be part of District 2.
- Soledad at Rainbow Glenn: We suggest keeping the homes between Flo Ln. and Fanchon Ln. to be part of District 5 rather than District 1.
- We suggest keeping everything on Status St. (north of Skyline Ranch Rd.) to be in District 5 to ensure Skyline Ranch remains in one District.
- We suggest keeping everything east of Rye Canyon Loop (between Farrier Dr. and Hearth Ct.) to be in District 3 to keep the neighborhood of West Hills together.
- We suggest moving the area just north of Soledad and south of the Santa Clara River (essentially Villa Metro) from District 3 to District 2 as those homes are more closely associated with District 2 given the physical boundary of the River.

Unfortunately, given the software's limitations, we were not able to make the below minor suggested changes. A separate map is attached to this letter for your review. The suggestions are proposed as follows:

- We propose keeping all of the greater Circle J Ranch community together, including the Circle J gated community. It would be best to move all homes on Parvin Dr. and Karie Ln. into District
  This change will keep all homes in the greater Circle J Ranch together as one community of interest. See image 1.
- 2. We also propose moving the four homes at the end of Hacienda Ln. into District 1 to keep all homes in Placerita Canyon together as one community of interest. *See image 2*.
- 3. Given the proposed Shadowbox Studios project, we also suggest the full studio property be kept together in one district. As such, we recommend keeping the Shadowbox Studio property within District 1. Since this is a commercial project, no voters will be affected by this change. See image 3.

We believe the minor changes suggested in the SCV Chamber's proposed map and the changes suggested in this letter respect the intent of the draft map, while better keeping communities of interest together within their respective new council districts.

We thank the City of Santa Clarita for allowing us to provide input and look forward to working with you through this process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us for further clarification.

Sincerely,

Ivan Volschenk

President & CEO, Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce

