



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Preservation of the Tri-City Communities of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena Within County Supervisorial District 5 During the 2021 Redistricting Process

1. Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Letter to the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission to Advocate for the Preservation of the Tri-City Communities in One Supervisorial District for Los Angeles County

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for November 16, 2021 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Redistricting is a process that occurs every 10 years and utilizes census data to draw boundaries or electoral districts that determine which voters are represented by each elected official. The Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission oversees redistricting for the five supervisorial districts for the County of Los Angeles.

The tri-city communities of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena share County Supervisorial District 5, represented by Supervisor Kathryn Barger. The tri-cities also share similar historical, cultural, and economic backgrounds, and partner on numerous regional efforts, including the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority.

The City of Glendale would like to join the Cities of Burbank and Pasadena in advocating for the classification of the tri-city area of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena as a Community of Interest (COI) and its continued inclusion within their current county electoral district.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Fiscal Responsibility, Safe & Healthy Community, and Economic Vibrancy: Maintaining the tri-cities within one supervisorial district will allow these municipalities to continue to leverage resources toward meeting local and state goals, advocate their policy stances from a regional perspective, promote safety, and provide a high quality of life and economic vitality for residents and businesses.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter on behalf of City Council to the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission advocating for the preservation of the tri-city communities of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena within County Supervisorial District 5 during the 2021 redistricting process.

BACKGROUND

The tri-city communities of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena share County Supervisorial District 5, represented by Supervisor Kathryn Barger. The tri-cities also share similar historical, cultural, and economic backgrounds, and partner on numerous regional efforts. A current Los Angeles County District map is included as Exhibit 1 of this report.

As charter cities with a Council-Manager form of government, Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena have local decision-making authority over municipal affairs, and have similar objectives to address the needs of their communities. As full-service cities, they provide their own safety and utility services, contain independent school districts, and advocate for similar municipal priorities.

The cities further share common neighborhood aesthetics, from tree-lined single-family neighborhoods, to equestrian rancho areas (Glendale and Burbank), and the preservation of open space. According to 2019 census estimates, the tri-cities share similar demographics and economic metrics, including population size, concentration of population per square mile, median age, and median housing values. Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena also share diverse, residential populations.

Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena work together on several joint ventures to provide transportation, business, and safety services to the region. Most notably, the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority, a separate government agency, was created under a joint powers agreement between the three cities in 1977 for the sole purpose of owning and operating the Hollywood Burbank Airport.

The tri-city region is also closely connected by economic development initiatives. Historically, with their proximity to Los Angeles and population increases associated with the growth of manufacturing industries, the tri-cities boast a diverse economic base, from entertainment to professional services to businesses that serve the aviation and technological sectors. The region is home to thousands of entertainment and media companies and tens of thousands of tech and creative industry jobs.

Both Glendale and Burbank participate in the Valley Economic Alliance, a nonprofit private-public collaborative that aims to boost economic vitality in the San Fernando Valley. Additionally, Glendale and Burbank have partnered to participate in an economic development campaign to create a brand identity for the tri-city area as an entrepreneurial hub. Efforts are underway to create marketing materials for the new brand to attract employers and encourage entrepreneurship. By leveraging the combined assets of these cities, the campaign seeks to make the region more competitive and attractive to technology firms, start-ups, and new talent.

The tri-cities also participate in a larger Arroyo Verdugo Communities Subregion Joint Powers Authority (JPA), which also includes La Cañada Flintridge, South Pasadena, and the unincorporated communities of Montrose/La Crescenta. Formed in 2018, the JPA oversees the subregion's five-year transportation program and expenditure of Metro Measure M funds toward the region's transit needs. Connected by Interstate 5 and State Highway 134, the tri-cities have consistently coordinated on regional transportation initiatives.

Today, Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena are working jointly to complete a transit fleet electrification study for their local routes to respond to state-mandated regulations that promote zero-emission transit vehicles. The study is currently underway and represents a regional effort to mutually address state transportation and environmental goals.

In the area of public safety, Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena coordinate on regional fire and police efforts, including the Police Air Support Unit. Established in 1979, the Air Support Unit, located at the Hollywood Burbank Airport, operates seven days a week conducting surveillance, fire observation, search and rescue, and mosquito abatement. The tri-cities founded the Verdugo Fire Communications Center in 1979 to optimize use of fire service and defense resources, and today provides emergency medical services and rescue dispatch services to nine other cities in the region. Finally, all three cities own and operate publically owned utilities and serve as members of the Southern California Public Power Authority, Metropolitan Water District of South California, and the California Municipal Utilities Association.

ANALYSIS

Redistricting is a process that occurs every 10 years and utilizes census data to draw boundaries or electoral districts that determine which voters are represented by each elected official. Following the recent release of federal census data, state and county redistricting commissions are evaluating electoral district boundaries and soliciting stakeholder feedback regarding proposed redistricting plans. As populations grow, the boundaries must be adjusted to account for shifts in population and demographics to ensure that voters in each district have an equal voice in electing their representatives.

The Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) oversees redistricting for the five supervisorial districts for the County of Los Angeles. For the County of Los Angeles, the redistricting process must be completed by December 15, 2021.

At the October 28, 2021 Special Meeting, the Los Angeles County CRC chose four draft map options to receive further public input and discussion. Members of the public are encouraged to submit input on these draft map options and how they would like them to be changed, or not. These Fall public hearings just began this month and are important to solicit community input regarding the CRC Redistricting Plan options under consideration. Members of the public are also welcomed to make changes to the draft map plans and submit modified plan submissions.

The four draft maps, as they pertain to the tri-city region, are as follows:

- [Option A](#) – Maintains the tri-cities in one supervisorial district.
- [Option B](#) – Bisects Glendale into two supervisorial districts; Glendale south of the 134 freeway is in a different supervisorial district than Burbank, Pasadena, and the northern half of Glendale, which are all in one district.
- [Option C](#) – Carves Burbank out of the supervisorial district and places it into a different district.
- [Option D](#) – Maintains the tri-cities in one supervisorial district.

As noted above, the cities of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena are connected through economic, historical, and demographic similarities, legislative objectives, and joint partnerships that promote safety and reliable services for their communities. It is recommended that the City of Glendale join the Cities of Burbank and Pasadena in advocating for the classification of the tri-city area of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena as a Community of Interest (COI) and its continued inclusion within their current county electoral district. A COI is a concentrated population with common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Maintaining the tri-cities within County Supervisorial District 5 would allow these municipalities to continue to leverage resources toward meeting local and state goals, advocate their policy stances from a regional perspective, and provide a high quality of life and economic vitality for residents and businesses.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

The Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission has been conducting outreach to gain public input on how lines will be drawn between County Supervisorial Districts.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Project is categorically exempt from environmental review because (Cite the relevant code section here – CEQA Guidelines §§ 15300 – 15300).

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter on behalf of City Council to the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission advocating for the preservation of the tri-city communities of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena within County Supervisorial District 5 during the 2021 redistricting process.

Alternative 2: Authorize a letter signed by the Mayor and all members of the City Council to the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission advocating for the preservation of the tri-city communities of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena within County Supervisorial District 5 during the 2021 redistricting process.

Alternative 3: Choose to not send a letter to the Los Angeles County Redistricting Commission regarding the 2021 redistricting process.

Alternative 4: City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

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EXHIBITS / ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1: Los Angeles County District Map