L. A. City Council Redistricting Commission

200 N. Spring Street, Room 285

Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Inclusion of Ladera in CD11**

Dear Chairman Ali and Commission Members,

Yours is a critical job that can have a profound impact on the people and communities that are shuttled from one City Council District to another, so it is vital that you work to make sure communities that have forged a bond economically, socially and otherwise remain intact.

It is with this focus that I am writing on behalf of the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa (NCWP) asking you respectfully to retain the Ladera area in Council District 11, where it truly belongs.

This area, known as Residential District 11, plays an important and significant role in our community. Our Neighborhood Council represents the stakeholders who live, work, and play in the Westchester, Playa del Rey and Playa Vista communities and is vehemently opposed to the transfer of this area into Council District 8 as has been proposed.

We urge the 2021 Redistricting Commission to keep Residential District 11, the area named Ladera/Triangle, within boundaries in Council District 11. The boundary of this starts with an ‘L’ shape on the north between 62nd and 63rd Streets, extending from three blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. to La Brea, and south on La Cienega into the Triangle area south of Centinela Ave. to east of the 405 Fwy. The area has become an integral part of our community and has strong ties to the Westchester/Playa community.

Residents in this area share common interests with the rest of Westchester. Their children play Little League in Westchester, and many go to school in CD11. They share shopping and business centers, churches, police and fire stations, property values, and income levels. They also share common community concerns such as airport noise and traffic. Area residents are engaged in a variety of community organizations ranging from service clubs to the Ballona Creek Art Project. It is clear that these residents are inextricably intertwined with CD11 in a community sense.

This area is also connected to CD11 geographically. In fact, Ladera was the City’s original “Gateway to LAX,” connecting the city to its airport between unincorporated LA County and Inglewood in the 1940s. This deep and historic connection to LAX continues to bind the Ladera area to its Westchester neighbors, as all of these residents continue to share an interest in airport politics, impacts of airport modernization and area traffic patterns.

Furthermore, many of this area’s residents either currently work or have retired from the airport. They share concerns about airport noise and travelers parking in their neighborhoods. They share concerns about airport traffic and how the construction of the airport’s new landside improvements will impact the community. The main thoroughfare for the new LAX Consolidated Rent-A-Car (ConRAC) facility runs through Ladera and into Westchester. It only makes sense to allow these residents to remain a part of CD11 so that their concerns can be heard by the same Councilmember who represents the airport itself. Relocating them outside CD11 will disenfranchise an entire community whose livelihood and day-to-day quality of life are tied to LAX. It is critical that these residents have a seat at the table and can be assured that their voice will be heard by the airport and CD11 on these important matters.

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa and the tens of thousands of Angelenos it represents are unified in our desire to keep Ladera and the triangle area in Westchester where residents have forged strong bonds within the community and have finally gained a real voice in city government through representation on the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa.

Please do not continue to use this area as a political football, being tossed from district to district, and allow it to remain where residents have finally connected with the Council District that represents them and have woven their way into the fabric of the community.

For the past 30 years, City Redistricting Commissions has shuffled this neighborhood from Council District to Council District. It was formerly in CD10 and then moved to CD8 and moved again to CD11. Previous Commissions did not recognize that Ladera is a diverse community of 309 households with common interests to the westside of Los Angeles

In the last round of Redistricting in 2011, Ladera finally moved to CD11 where the community has flourished. Westchester welcomed Ladera and even dedicated a seat on the Neighborhood Council to the area. Ladera residents have become key players in Westchester/Playa politics and community issues. In fact, for the first time, Ladera residents, though the Neighborhood Council, were empowered, supported and joined forces with their neighbors to resolve numerous decades-oldproblems with city services and public safety.

The connection to Westchester/Playa has also attracted new business to the area. The former rundown commercial center was revitalized and new businesses including Amazon Fresh, Spectrum, and Marshall’s have moved in to serve area residents. These stores identify and brand themselves as Westchester locations. Perhaps more telling, these new businesses based their investment decisions on criteria such as household incomes and educations levels of residents in the area – demographic characteristics that more closely resemble CD11 than CD8. It is a

betrayal of the City’s commitment to these businesses and area residents to move this community into South Los Angeles CD8.

The Ladera/Triangle area is finally where it belongs, and it would be a shame to uproot these residents once again, tearing apart a community that is tied together socially, economically and culturally.

If Redistricting Map K2.5 is adopted without restoring this community to CD11, the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa will lose a District Director seat and will no longer represent stakeholders who should be able to provide their input on important airport modernization projects that will impact their daily lives. Equally important is the fact that the Ladera/Triangle area is part of the Westchester – Playa del Rey (WPDR) Community Plan, and planning, land-use and city services decisions have been and continue to be made predicated on the fact that this area is an integral part of CD11.

As part of Westchester, this long forgotten neighborhood has received roadway improvements and even had its streets repaved for the first time in 30 years. LADWP conducted an inspection and repaired power poles for the first time in 10 years, resolving frequent power outages. Stop signs were installed at dangerous intersections where there had been multiple accidents. Trash is now picked up regularly. Most importantly, when one Ladera neighbor died because the paramedics went to the wrong street (as a result of a 35-year-old street sign missing letters), the NCWP got the city to create custom street signs for the neighborhood with the city seal so no first responders would ever make that mistake again.

It is not a stretch to say that lives have been saved, social bonds have been forged and neighbors have become inextricably tied to each other as the result of this area being included in CD11. The residents of this area are unanimous in their desire to remain a part of CD11 and continue to be linked to Westchester.

Please do not rip this area apart as previous Redistricting Commissions have done. Please consider the important social, geographic and political ties that have been cemented over the past decade. Please keep the Ladera/Triangle area in CD11. Thank you for your consideration of this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

Paula Gerez,

President

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa

Cc: Councilman Mike Bonin