

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: City Manager – Adopt RESOLUTION to advocate the South Bay cities as a single community as it pertains to redistricting

Expenditure: N/A

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that City Council adopt a **RESOLUTION** to advocate the South Bay cities as a single community as it pertains to redistricting under Proposition 11. The South Bay cities include: Lomita, Torrance, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and El Segundo.

Funding

N/A

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the City Council meeting of March 22, 2011, Councilman Sutherland requested concurrence of Council to direct staff to explore advocating the South Bay cities as a single community with similar economic and geographic interests as it pertains to redistricting under Proposition 11, the California Redistricting Reform Initiative. If appropriate, staff was directed to prepare a RESOLUTION to be adopted by Council.

In November 2008, the California voters approved Proposition 11 to establish a Citizens Redistricting Commission. The role of the Citizens Redistricting Commission is to draw new political district lines every ten years for California legislative and Board of Equalization districts. Under the State Constitution the state is required to adjust the boundary lines of the districts once every ten years following the federal census for the State Assembly, State Senate, State Board of Equalization, and California's congressional districts for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Again in November 2010, the California voters reiterated the need to have the Citizens Redistricting Commission determine the new district lines with the passing of Proposition 20. Under Proposition 20, this measure amends the Constitution to change the redistricting process for California's districts in the U.S. House of Representatives. This measure removes the authority of congressional redistricting from the Legislature and instead gives this authority to the Citizens Redistricting Commission. The measure defines "*community of interest*" for both congressional redistricting and redistricting of State Assembly, State Senate and Board of Equalization seats. A community of interest is defined as "*a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.*"

The resolution before you tonight is to advocate that the South Bay cities be considered a community with similar geographical, social and economic interests as it relates to redistricting. This will allow the South Bay cities to have a stronger and unified voice.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
CITY MANAGER

By 
Eleanor B. Jones
Management Associate

CONCUR:


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment A: RESOLUTON to advocate the South Bay cities as a single community as it pertains to redistricting

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2011-____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
TO ADVOCATE THE SOUTH BAY CITIES AS A SINGLE COMMUNITY AS IT RELATES TO
REDISTRICTING UNDER PROPOSITION 11**

WHEREAS, by passing Proposition 11 and affirming it through Proposition 20 the voters of California have made known that their will is to have voters choose their legislators, rather than legislators choose their voters.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the South Bay have had their voices weakened by having their representation split between them and much larger cities and geographic areas with often contradictory values and interests, and have been denied the right to have representatives of all parties truly compete for their vote.

WHEREAS, one of the criteria for apportionment defined by Proposition 11 was for the new Citizens Redistricting Commission to take into consideration and to preserve communities of interest when drawing district lines.

WHEREAS, the South Bay at large constitutes a community of interest that has traditionally been defined as the family of communities with common economic and geographic interests, geographically defined as South of Marina Del Rey, and encircled by the 105 to the North, the 405 to the Northeast and the 110 to the South East. This area includes Lomita, Torrance, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and El Segundo.

WHEREAS, having the South Bay community of interest encompassed as much as possible by a single congressional, assembly or state senate district in the 2011 reapportionment would be in the best interest of voters and would enable the best alignment of government with regional interests.

Therefore be it resolved, that the City Council of the City of Torrance recommends to the Citizens Redistricting Commission that they treat the South Bay of Los Angeles as a community of interest from the standpoint of redistricting to the largest extent practical, and that the commission make every effort to keep the beach cities, Torrance, Lomita, and the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the other aforementioned communities within the same district from the standpoint of drawing state assembly, state senate and congressional district boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ADVOCATE THE SOUTH BAY CITIES AS A SINGLE COMMUNITY AS IT RELATES TO REDISTRICTING UNDER PROPOSITION 11.

Introduced, approved and adopted this 12th day of April 2011.

Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN L. FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

by _____
Patrick Q. Sullivan
Assistant City Attorney

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk