

Agenda Report

October 04, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Legislative Policy Committee (September 28, 2021)

FROM: Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, ADVOCATING FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE TRI-CITY COMMUNITIES OF PASADENA, BURBANK AND GLENDALE WITHIN COUNTY SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5 DURING THE 2021 REDISTRICTING PROCESS**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission advocating for the preservation of the tri-city communities of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale within their County Supervisorial District 5 during the 2021 redistricting process

LEGISLATIVE POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

On the September 28, 2021 the Legislative Policy Committee unanimously recommended to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission, advocating for the preservation of the tri-city communities of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale within County Supervisorial District 5 during the 2021 redistricting process.

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. For the County of Los Angeles, the redistricting process must be completed by December 15, 2021.

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.

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

As a result of these shared characteristics, the City of Pasadena would like to advocate for the classification of the tri-city area of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale 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.

Staff is recommending authorization of the Mayor to sign a letter to Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission advocating for the preservation of the tri-city communities of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale, within County Supervisorial District 5. This independent commission oversees redistricting for the five supervisorial districts for the County of Los Angeles.

BACKGROUND:

As charter cities with a Council-Manager form of government, Pasadena, Burbank, and Glendale have local decision-making authority over municipal affairs, and have similar objectives to address community needs. As full-service cities, they provide their own safety and utility services, contain independent school districts, and advocate for similar legislative priorities including local funding and protection of local control. Preservation of the tri-cities within their current electoral districts would maintain a strong regional voice in public policy.

The tri-city communities of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale are currently within County Supervisorial District 5, represented by County Supervisor Kathryn Barger. Concern has been raised that the City of Burbank could potentially be moved into LA County Supervisorial District 3.

Given their shared historical, cultural, and economic backgrounds, the tri-cities region may be considered a COI, which per Section 2(d)(4) of Article XXI of the California Constitution, is a concentrated population with common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district.

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. Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale also share diverse residential populations.

Joint Ventures

Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale work in concert 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 Hollywood Burbank Airport.

The tri-cities region is closely connected by economic development initiatives as well. 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.

The tri-cities participate in the 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, Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale 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, Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale 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 publicly owned utilities and serve as members of the Southern California Public Power Authority, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the California Municipal Utilities Association.

The cities of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale are connected through economic, historical and demographic similarities, legislative objectives, and joint partnerships that promote safety and reliable services for their communities. 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.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

Approval of the subject recommendation represents a continuation of advocacy strategies on behalf of the City of Pasadena.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) the "General Rule" provision of CEQA which applies to projects which may have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

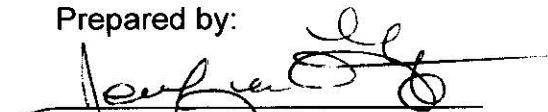
FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds for City advocacy are included in the City Council's annual operating budget.

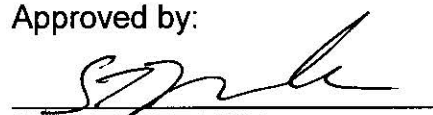
Respectfully submitted,


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