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CITY OF DOWNEY



PRESS RELEASE

Mixed Results for Downey in First Draft of Statewide Redistricting Maps

Downey, CA, June 13, 2011: When the California Citizens Redistricting Commission released its first draft of maps for state Assembly and Senate and Congressional districts, City officials were pleased that the City would remain "One Downey" – with one notable exception.

The City of Downey is fully contained within the proposed State Assembly and State Senate Districts as well as the larger State Board of Equalization District. However, the first draft of the Congressional District maps moves 10,700 Downey residents into a district different from their neighbors.

"It was one of my mayoral goals to remain united as One Downey, and I'm happy that the Citizens' Commission has kept the City whole in the State Assembly and Senate Districts but I am concerned that 10% of Downey residents have been carved away from the rest of the City in the proposed Congressional District maps" said Downey Mayor Luis Marquez. He continued, "I encourage the public to make sure their voices are heard by attending the public meeting in Whittier this Friday, June 17th, or by submitting a comment on the Commission's website at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov."

The Congressional District maps place the southwestern portion of Downey (approximately 3,600 people in District 3 and 7,100 residents of District 2) into a congressional district with Inglewood, Bell, Cudahy and South Gate. That district would stretch as far west as the 405 Freeway and the Los Angeles International Airport. The majority of Downey is located in a new congressional district that includes the entirety of the neighboring cities of Bellflower, Artesia, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, La Mirada, Montebello and Pico Rivera.

The City of Downey, in Southeast Los Angeles County, sits primarily between the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers, where it is sandwiched between the I-5, I-605, I-710 and I-105 Freeways, equidistant from major employment centers such as Downtown Los Angeles, the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, and Anaheim's Disneyland resort area. Served by its own exemplary police, fire, library and school systems, the City previously submitted a letter supporting the California Citizens' Redistricting Commission's stated principles of keeping communities whole and respecting geographic and other existing boundaries.

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