



**Attachment "D"**

July XX, 2021

**VIA EMAIL: [redistricting.lacity@lacity.org](mailto:redistricting.lacity@lacity.org)**

City Council Redistricting Commission  
City of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring Street, Room 275  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Bel Air-Beverly Crest Community of Interest

Dear Chair Ali and Commissioners:

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council (BABCNC) was established in 2002 and has for nearly 20 years served as the venue for coordination and cooperation across the community of interest that it serves. We represent the hillside communities stretching from Laurel Canyon to Sepulveda Boulevard, and from Sunset Boulevard to Mulholland Drive. Based on the review of our Task Force on Redistricting and approved by the Board of Directors at our general meeting on July 28, 2021, we offer this letter defining the BABCNC territory as a community of interest that should be kept undivided within a single council district that also includes the adjacent foothill commercial and cultural districts to the south.

The BABCNC territory is contiguous and has well-defined, natural boundaries. To the west, the boundary is the 405 Freeway through the Sepulveda Pass, which has presented a natural boundary for the entire period of human habitation of the Los Angeles Basin. Sepulveda Pass was used by the Spanish explorers to traverse the Santa Monica Mountains, who followed pathways laid down by thousands of years of Chumash and Tongva travel through their lands. In the modern era it has become a barrier to east-west movement, as the traffic associated with crossing the 405 Freeway results in people avoiding activities that involve crossing this barrier.

To the north, our boundary is Mulholland Drive, which is close to the crest of the Santa Monica Mountains as it extends east to west. It too is a natural boundary, demarcating watersheds and associated environmental connectivity (lands north of Mulholland drain through the San Fernando Valley via the Los Angeles River to the ocean in Long Beach, while our territory to the south of Mulholland drains into Ballona Creek and to the ocean in Playa Del Rey). Cultural identity shifts north and south of Mulholland Drive as well, with areas to the north associating with the San Fernando Valley and its services and political identity, and our territory to the south associated with the Westside, its commercial districts and cultural institutions, and political organization, such as being a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils.

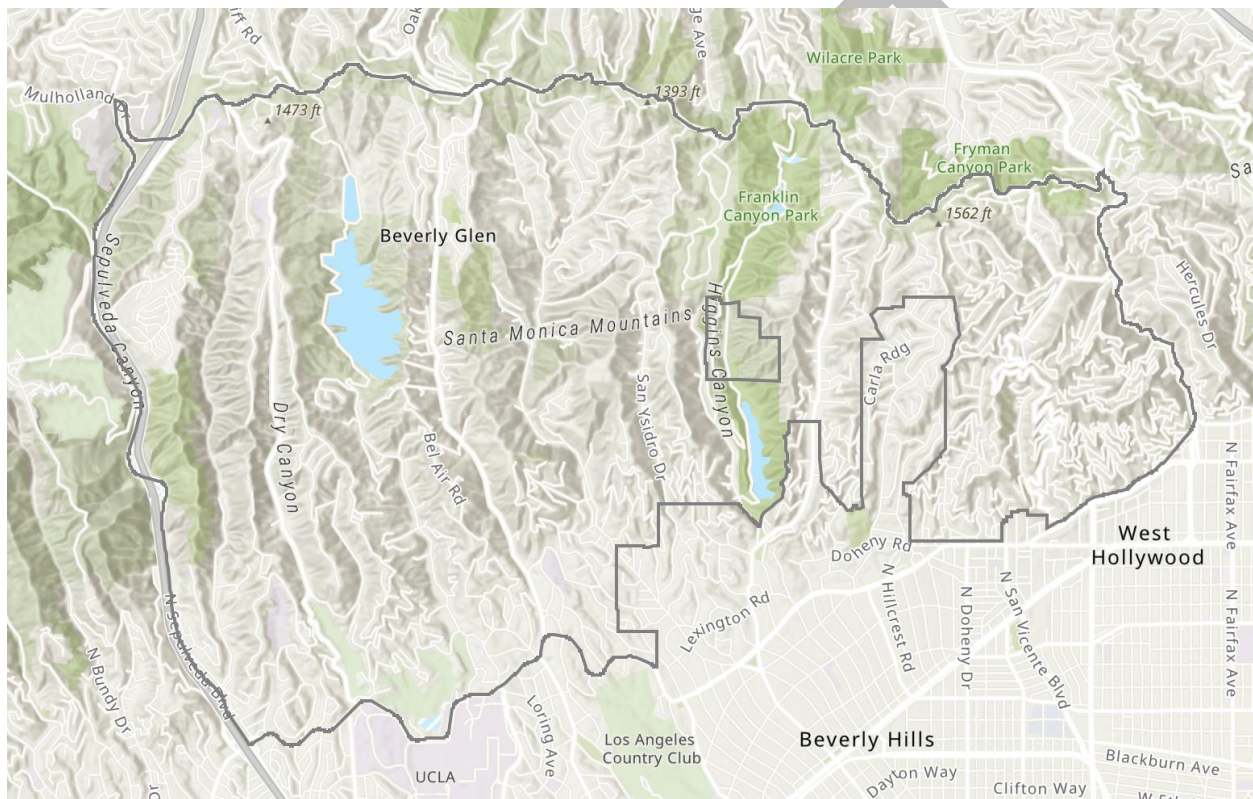


Figure 1. Location of the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council on the Westside of Los Angeles. The official City of Los Angeles boundary shown here should be updated so that the western boundary is the 405 Freeway instead of Sepulveda Boulevard.

Our southern boundary is Sunset Boulevard, which is another old pathway across the Los Angeles basin. It was one of the first routes from downtown Los Angeles to the ocean, following the break point between the steep hillsides of the Santa Monica Mountains and the more rolling foothills that would become Westwood, the “flats” of Beverly Hills, and West Hollywood. In fact our southern extent is further defined by these other two cities encompassed by Los Angeles.

The eastern boundary of this community of interest is Laurel Canyon Boulevard. Laurel Canyon is the breakpoint between the hillside areas that orient toward the west and those that orient more

explicitly toward Hollywood. The identity of areas further east is more as the Hollywood Hills and indeed this is reflected in the adjacent neighborhood council - Hollywood Hills West.

The identity and interests of the Bel Air-Beverly Crest neighborhood is defined by the opportunities and challenges of hillside living. Most residents are attracted to the lower density, views, and access to natural lands and wildlife that are typical of the hillside. Indeed, a large amount of protected open space for wildlife is found in this area and these areas are used by residents for recreation (e.g., Franklin Canyon Park, Beverly Glen Park, Getty View Park) or appreciated as visual resources without access (Stone Canyon Reservoir and Watershed). Many neighborhoods include privately owned natural open space as well.

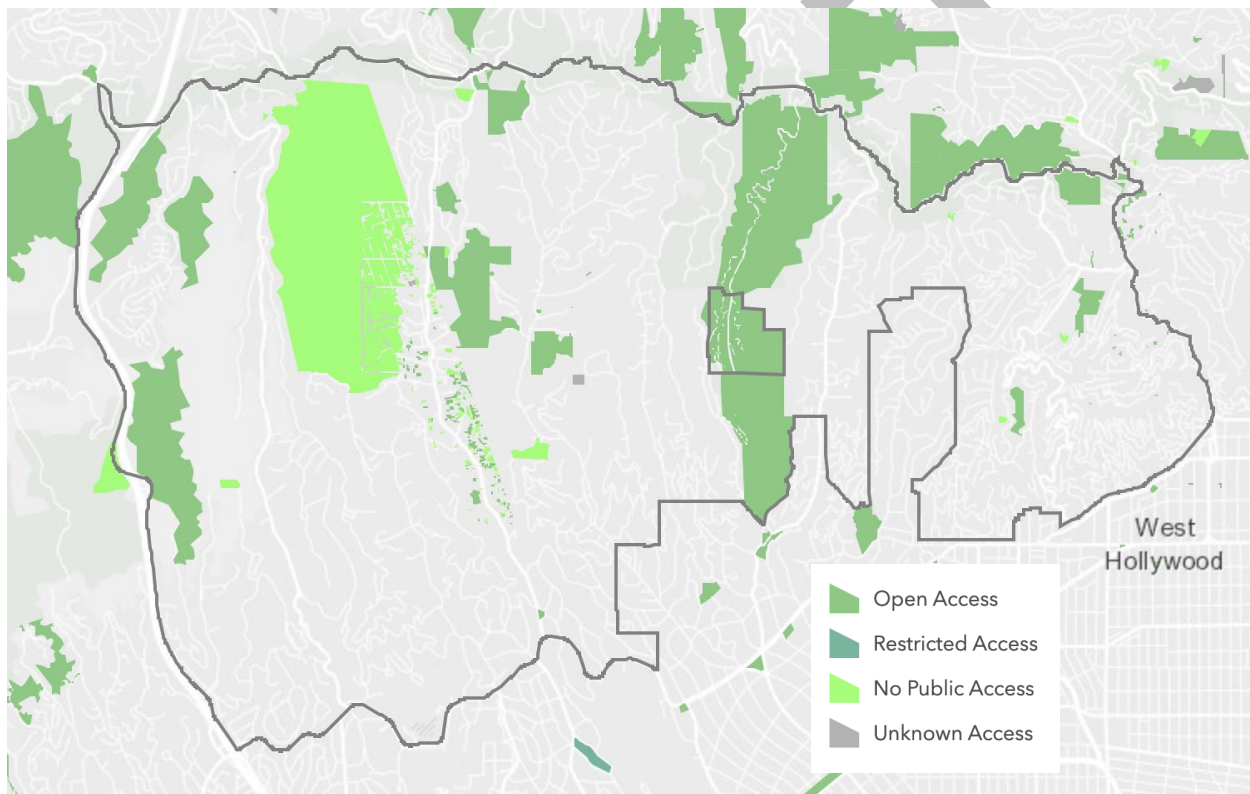


Figure 2. Distribution of publicly owned open spaces within the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council territory.

All areas within this territory face an ongoing risk from wildfire. This risk brings neighborhoods together to plan and watch out for risks. For example, the BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee networks with residents across the territory and a network of ham radio operators is set up to maintain communications in case of emergency. Residents are responsible for annual fuel modification and live through the long fire season prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.

The neighborhood is unified by its neighborhoods being accessed by the four major Westside to Valley boulevards: Sepulveda, Beverly Glen, Coldwater Canyon, and Laurel Canyon. These routes both bring convenience to access different parts of the city, but also challenges associated with extreme traffic during rush hours and street racing during nighttime hours. Similar traffic issues are experienced by those canyon roads that do not extend through to the Valley, such as Benedict Canyon and Roscomare Canyon.

Residents appreciate the beautiful setting and views, but this also makes this neighborhood vulnerable to unscrupulous owners who rent out homes for parties and disruptive short-term tenants. Party houses are a concern throughout the territory, so much so that BABCNC has established an Ad Hoc Committee to focus on these nuisances and the means available to control them.

Hillside development is a similar challenge that requires representation by a councilmember dedicated to addressing neighborhood concerns. Narrow streets, fire danger, substandard lots, and extreme topography make development difficult and often dangerous for neighbors. Establishing an appropriate size, location, schedule, and characteristics of development is a concern for current residents, both to maintain the environment and to ensure safety in event of emergencies.

The neighborhoods of the BABCNC territory come together over these issues of common interest, such as attending town halls on fire safety and post-fire responses, meeting each other at pancake breakfasts at the fire stations that serve the territory, at the community police advisory boards, and at local neighborhood fairs and festivals.

Notwithstanding the unique character of our neighborhoods, BABCNC makes up a community of interest that deserves representation by a single council office that will recognize and appreciate the area's assets and opportunities. It is for these reasons that we request that our territory remain undivided and be included in the council district that includes the westside communities adjacent to the south (e.g., Westwood, Century City, Fairfax, Cheviot Hills, Rancho Park).

Sincerely,

Travis Longcore, Chair  
Task Force on Redistricting