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Assembly California Legislature



MELISSA A. MELENDEZ
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, SIXTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: PUBLIC SAFETY
BUDGET
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND THE ECONOMY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5
ON PUBLIC SAFETY

August 27, 2013

TO: Mr. Phil Williams, Chair, Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission and Commissioners

RE: TEMESCAL VALLEY ANNEXATION BY CITY OF CORONA
LAFCO 2013-05-01 Reorganization to Include Annexation 114 to the City of Corona

As the California State Assembly Representative for the 67th District which includes the Temescal Valley and as former mayor, council member, business owner and current resident of Lake Elsinore; I would like to voice my opposition to the application to annex more than 15 square miles of the Temescal Valley area into the City of Corona (LAFCO 2013-05-1).

I recognize I have no power over City and County issues and respect that the recommendation in this matter is for LAFCO to decide. However, I have been given well-organized presentations by constituents of Temescal Valley and the facts they have shown me seem to support their concerns which are mainly in regards to fire and police protection.

The County fire chief has said he will recommend closing Station 64 in Sycamore Creek if annexation occurs. Thus, constituents in areas adjacent to the proposed annexation such as Horsethief Canyon, Glen Eden, and portions of Spanish Hills and Dawson Canyon will be ten miles away from the nearest County station. Currently they are approximately two miles from Station 64.

Additionally, residents say there is no proof that police protection for Temescal Valley will be better under the City of Corona. On the other hand, they have confidence in the County Board of Supervisors recent vote to boost hiring over the next five years in unincorporated communities with the goal of a 1.2 to 1000 deputy-to-resident staffing ratio. It seems the city's largest ratio in high-crime areas is 1 per 1000.

Residents fear an annexation will cause hardships for those in Trilogy and Glen Ivy retirement communities, whose fixed incomes cannot withstand increased fees for services. The same holds true for the young families who make up another large segment of the Temescal Valley population. Temescal Valley business owners may also face tremendous cost increases in business licensing fees.

Given the overwhelming opposition by my constituents to the proposed annexation and what I feel to be their reasonable concerns, I urge the LAFCO Commissioners to vote against this application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Melendez".

Melissa Melendez
Assemblywoman
67th District

MM/dt

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