

Brentwood: What's Your Community?

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community of Interest?

A community of interest is a group of people in a defined geographic location that share a common bond or interest. The definition is broad, leaving communities a lot of discretion in determining which issues are important to them.

Why do they matter?

Under state law communities of interest may be considered when deciding how to drawing district boundaries. Keeping communities whole in the same district allows those with common interests to come together for representation.

Why do I matter?

Communities of Interest are best documented through oral or written input from individuals or groups with first-hand knowledge of them. Nothing can replace personal knowledge of the community. That's why we want to hear your feedback on your community; you know it best!

What do I do?

Start by completing the attached Testimony Form and describing your community

Tell us where the exterior boundaries of your community are so we can locate it on a map. For example, write down landmarks, streets, bodies of water, or railroad tracks that delineate the outside border of the community. You can also draw the boundaries of your community on the attached map or use the free online tool.

Then tell us what the common interests of your community are and why they are important. The law does not limit the kinds of interests that may bind a community. They can include your current situation or common goals for the future. Examples of common interests include income, education, housing, culture and language, employment and economic patterns, and health and environmental conditions.

Finally tell us why it is important to keep your community whole. Sometimes it is not possible to keep all communities together. Some communities may overlap with each other. To deal with these tradeoffs tell us how your community would benefit from being kept in one district.

There are two options to submit your testimony. It can be emailed to districtelections@brentwoodca.gov, or dropped off or mailed to City Clerk, 150 City Park Way, Brentwood, CA 94513. Testimony must be received no later than March 11, 2019 for consideration in the draft map (the sooner the better).

Why do I have such a short time?

State law requires the districting process to be completed within 90 days and includes specific deadlines for the public testimony process. While Brentwood has received an extension, the process must still be completed under an expedited timeline.

What else can I do?

The City Council will be holding the first round of public hearings on February 11 and March 11, 2019. Consider coming and telling us more about your community.

Draft maps will then be prepared for public comment. Keep an eye out for those maps and let us know how they do representing your community.

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Testimony Form

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Describe your Community of Interest below including where it is located (being as specific as possible, including info on streets and other landmarks that make up the exterior boundary of your community. Feel free to also use the attached map or online mapping tool if/when available), what makes it a community (e.g. shared culture, common neighborhood projects, etc.), and why it should be kept together.

My community of interest is located at: _____

My community's mutual interests include: _____

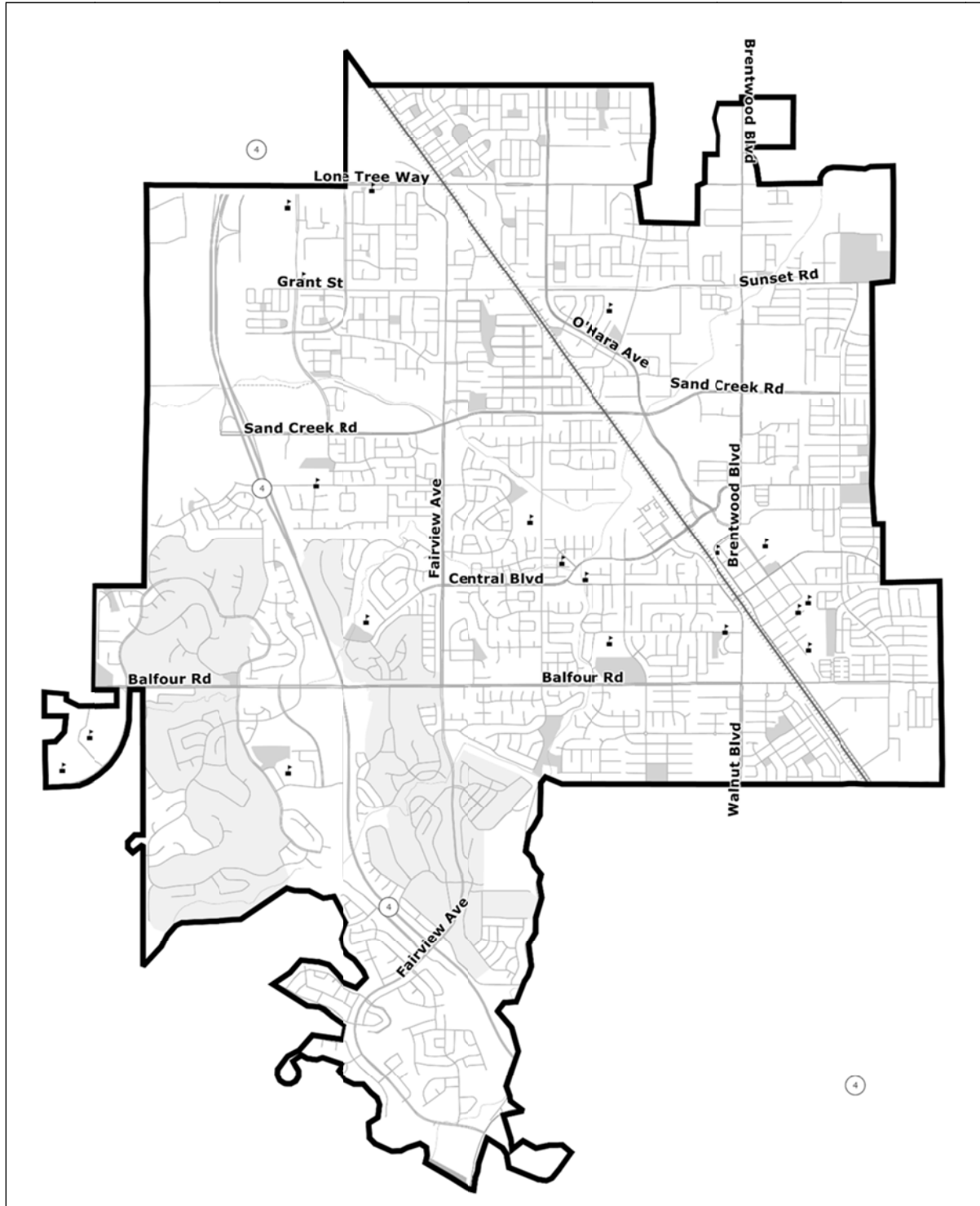
My community should be kept together because: _____

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Draw Your Community of Interest

Draw the boundaries of your Community of Interest on the map below. Whenever possible label key boundaries (e.g. street name). Alternatively, you can use the online tool using the attached instructions.



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Online Mapping Instructions

Use the following instructions to draw an online map of your community. Alternatively, you can use the attached hardcopy map.

STEP 1



Go to <https://www.google.com/maps/d/>. If prompted, follow the instructions to log into or create a google account.

STEP 2



Click "+ CREATE A NEW MAP".

STEP 3



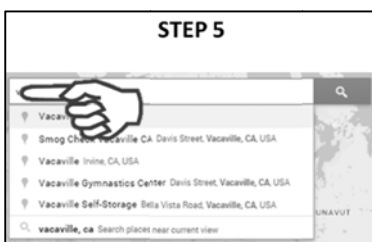
Click "Untitled map".

STEP 4




Under "Map title" enter the name of your community. Under "Description" enter your name (optional). Then click "Save".

STEP 5



Click on the search box and type "Brentwood, CA". Then hit enter.

STEP 6



Click the "Draw a line" icon and select "Add a line or shape".

STEP 7



Click on the map to draw the borders around your community. When you are done, click on the first dot you created.

STEP 8



Click "Save" (Don't worry about naming your shape).

STEP 9



If you make a mistake, click the edit icon to modify your map or the garbage icon to start over.

STEP 10




When finished click on the three vertical dots in the upper right hand corner.

STEP 11



TO EMAIL YOUR MAP: Select "Export to KML/KMZ". Then click "Download".

STEP 12



TO PRINT YOUR MAP: Select "Print Map" then click "Print."

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