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Sunday, July 21, 2002

The right to Self Govern – City Council rejects borough proposals – Last Wednesday, Valley leaders held a rally and press conference to denounce the City Council’s vote to kill boroughs. Every time there has been a serious plan to give more local control to the people of Los Angeles, Mayor Hahn, the City Council, and City union leaders block it. Last week’s City Council vote made it crystal clear that City Hall never had any interest in reforming City Hall. Even while more than half of their constituents threaten to leave and form their own better local government, Hahn, the City Council, and City union leader’s only concern is to preserve their power. We have said all along that the only way to achieve true reform is through Cityhood. We’ve given the city chance after chance to make things right. First they rejected elected neighborhood councils and now they have defeated boroughs. This should be a wake-up call to everyone throughout the city of Los Angeles, in every community, and in every neighborhood that the only way to achieve local control and a more accountable, less costly government is through supporting Valley and Hollywood Cityhood that results in a smaller, more manageable Los Angeles. Cityhood is the only way to empower remaining L.A. voters with real local control and the only way to force LA City Hall to adopt meaningful reforms.

Independence campaign builds its infrastructure and support – The Citywide campaign to create a new Valley City and a smaller City of Los Angeles is currently focused on building our campaign infrastructure. We have assembled a strong campaign team and have developed a comprehensive winning plan. We have also conducted extensive voter research and we are reaching out to supporters and neighborhoods throughout the city. The Los Angeles Times strongly opposes secession. They have consistently underestimated support for our right to self-govern. We are paying no attention to their articles that underplay our campaign. Our survey and research shows we are in a good position to win the campaign in the Valley and citywide. The arguments in favor of local control, a smaller and more efficient government and the people’s right to self govern ourselves in the Valley, Hollywood, and a smaller Los Angeles are much stronger and more credible than the distortions and lies coming from City Hall. Mayor Hahn has pledged to raise $5 million to defeat us. He will need every penny. We are the underdogs but we are on the right side of this issue and will have enough money to get our messages out. In just the last 45 days over 2,000 residents from all parts of the City have added their names to the pro-Cityhood movement. Over 90 candidates have indicated they will run for Valley offices. The mayor has his City Hall special interest money. We have the people who believe in local control and 85 years of history on our side. Our campaign is progressing as planned.

Valley Independence Ball Scheduled for August 2nd – Be there and show your support. Leaders from across the Valley will be attending this Ball in support of the Campaign for Valley Cityhood. Tickets are $100 per person. For additional information, contact the San Fernando Valley Independence Committee office at (818) 501-1035. In addition, our campaign is funded through your generous contributions. We would like to have as many contributors as possible in any amount. Please donate whatever you can afford. Send donations or your check for tickets to the Ball to: San Fernando Valley Independence Committee, 14622 Ventura Blvd. #201-B, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Contribution forms and information about Valley Independence are available at www.valleyindependence.org

Upcoming Events – Pro-independence representatives are participating in debates all across the City. This past week there were debates before the SFV Seniors for Action, the ACLU, ADL, and in South Central, West LA and the Valley. Last Wednesday night Valley representatives were at no less than six different events the very same night. At these debates those who oppose to our right to self-govern have no message. Audience members complain that they offer no proposal to make LA better, lie about the LAFCO report results and tell Valley residents we are not smart enough to run our own city. One LA Chairman, Larry Levine at a recent debate said Valley residents are acting like “Petulant Children.” We encourage people to read the LAFCO reports at http://valleyvote.org/LAFCOStudydocs.htm and see for yourself. The more facts you know about Valley Independence the better you will like it. Don’t let the nay-sayers steal our right to self-govern ourselves by their anti-Valley campaign of fear. This week there will be several major debates. To get information on these debates and events go to the Event Calendar at www.valleyvote.org