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Most vexing problem

Kudos to Sherman Oaks resident and public policy expert Joel Kotkin for revealing the upscale Valley secessionists' most vexing problem: achieving city status for the Valley's affluent sectors without including its poorest neighborhoods ("Seizing power" (Feb. 11).

Kotkin observes that Granada Hills has little in common with Pacoima, for example, and concludes that it doesn't make any sense to put them together. Thus is given the lie to all the high-flown rhetoric we're hearing about how city status for the Valley will lead to improved services and a greater sense of community for all Valley residents.

Who seriously believes that the same Valley residents who resent their tax money paying for a few services in Watts will be any more generous with the Valley's own poor?

— **Bill Becker**
Woodland Hills

Daily News Public Forum
P.O. Box 4200
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February 11, 2000

as Submitted. Commissions
by editor enclosed in
brackets ("[" "]")

Dear editor,

Kudos to Sherman Oaks resident — and public policy expert [mind you] — Joel Kotkin for revealing the upscale Valley secessionist's most vexing problem: achieving city status for the Valley's affluent sectors without including its poorer neighborhoods. ("Valley Almanac: Read All About it!" Daily News, February 11, p. 17.)

Kotkin observes that Granada Hills has little in common with Pacoima, for example, and concludes that it doesn't make any sense to put them together. Thus is given the lie to all the high-flown rhetoric we're hearing about how city status for the Valley will lead to improved services and a greater sense of community for all Valley residents.

Who seriously believes that the same Valley residents who resent their tax money paying for a few services in Watts will be any more generous with the Valley's own poor? [Kotkin and his clan may not be able to exclude Pacoima from a new City of San Fernando Valley, but there is small chance that Pacoima will be any better off than before.]

Sincerely,

Bill Becker