

Glenn Miller, City Council Member  
City of Indio

7/13/11  
Sac.

July 13, 2011

Via Hand Delivery

To: Members of the California Redistricting Commission

Re: Coachella Valley Redistricting Maps - Eastern Riverside County

Honorable Commission Members:

The undersigned is the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Indio located in the Coachella Valley in Riverside County. We are very concerned that the Commission is considering revising its' initial maps for our community to combine multiple cities of the Coachella Valley with Imperial County. Although, we respect the residents who live and work adjacent to the border we strongly feel that the communities of Imperial County have more in common with San Diego County. In my duties on the Indio City Council since December 2008, I have never had any interaction with a representative from Imperial County.

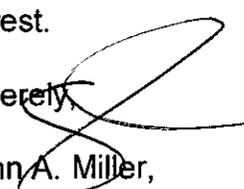
The initial maps presented by the Commission grouped all cities in the Coachella Valley in one district. This made logical sense given the size of the cities located in the Valley and the various governmental agencies and services that our communities already share. Commission members should realize that residents in our community have very little in common with Imperial County which is largely an agricultural community.

Residents of Imperial County already share a common border culture with San Diego County, as well as sharing Interstate 8, as well as many joint educational and health care facilities. The residents of Indio have more in common with other Valley cities, such as: similar race, ethnicity, income and education, common medical facilities and transportation systems. For these reasons and many others all Valley cities should be drawn in one district.

We respectfully request that the Commission re-confirm its initial redistricting maps for the eastern end of Riverside County and keep the cities of the Coachella Valley intact in one cohesive district.

We thank you in advance for your attention to these comments and to ensure that the new district lines are no longer drawn by political lines, but by common community interest.

Sincerely,

  
Glenn A. Miller,  
Mayor Pro Tem - City of Indio

 Indio, CA 92201  


July 11,2011

Chairman and Members of Redistricting Commission:

My name is Yvonne Parks. I am the elected Mayor of the City of Desert Hot Springs, located in the Coachella Valley.

I was pleased to see the first draft of the redistricting for the Coachella Valley. I was glad to see that you had recognized the importance of keeping the area together as one district connecting all nine cities.

I am writing to you today because I have been given information that you may be pressured politically to changing the original map to connect Imperial County to parts of the Coachella Valley and removing some of the cities into another district. This map also shows boundary lines being drawn from the north with a finger area slicing out Cathedral City This is not what the voters of California expect. The voters expect a non partisan plan that meets the needs of the area.

Our Valley should be represented by a single legislator and not reconfigured for political gain.

The Coachella Valley has nine cities that work together as a region on transportation, environmental, social and public safety issues. The population is around 400,000 and well over half million in the winter season. We deserve your attention.

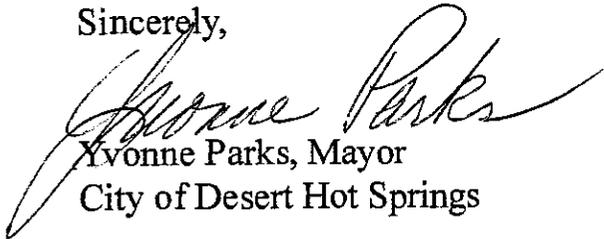
Imperial County would be better served by being disconnected from the Coachella Valley and redistricted with cities and areas that better fit their needs. The Coachella Valley is a tourist destination with limited agriculture whereas Imperial County is predominantly agriculture.

This newly proposed map would clearly separate our regional efforts.

Please make your decision based on what is best for the Coachella Valley and its nine cities' regional needs and not on the political pressures that the establishment of your commission was meant to prevent.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvonne Parks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Yvonne Parks, Mayor  
City of Desert Hot Springs

July 11, 2011

Dear Chairman Yao and members of the redistricting commission:

My name is Scott Matas I am a City Council Member for the City of Desert Hot Springs. I also represent the city on many committees and commissions throughout the county and state (listed below.)

I am writing today to express my concern on the redistricting of the Coachella Valley. I find it extremely concerning that the Coachella Valley is being targeted for another split leaving the region with multiple legislators. Our valley should be represented by a single legislator and not reconfigured for political gain. Imperial County would also benefit from being disconnected from the Coachella Valley and redistricted to cities and areas which fit their needs.

The Coachella Valley is a unique desert community with many reasons to have the full support of a single Assembly Member and the main focus of a Senator. The Coachella Valley has nine cities that focus on regional efforts for transportation, environmental issues, social issues and public safety. The Coachella Valley population is estimated at around 400,000 residence and well over a half million in the winter season. We deserve the attention on this issue.

I recently received a map that shows my city and others being separated for the major populated cities in the Coachella Valley. This map also shows boundary lines being drawn from the north with a finger area slicing out Cathedral City. This clearly would again separate our regional efforts.

Please make your decision based on the regional needs and not on the political pressures. Thank you for your time.



Scott Matas  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
Council Member

Riverside County Transportation Commission  
Commissioner

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Transportation Committee (2010 Chairman) Member

California League of Cities  
Public Safety Policy Committee Member

Dear Chairman Yao and members of the redistricting commission:

My name is Kathleen DeRosa. I am the Mayor of Cathedral City. I had written you last month sharing with you my involvement as chair of the Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Authority, immediate past chair of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP), a board member of the Riverside County Division of the League of California Cities and a member of the executive committee of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG).

While I had the distinct honor and pleasure of addressing you during the public hearing held in Palm Springs some time ago, I am very disturbed to see your new maps gerrymandering and disenfranchising Cathedral City once again by pulling us away from our regional partners, the cities we work closely with on a daily basis. As Mayor of my city and as an active community partner, please allow me to share with you, there is absolutely no relationship with the cities of Imperial County. There is no relationship because we are not communities of interest. Cathedral City has no ag lands and our needs are so very different and diverse. Our community has a significant Hispanic population, but Cathedral City is also ranked 5th in the state as being home to a very active GLBT community. Several years ago, seeing and understanding that we were a disenfranchised community of interest, the western cities of the Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs and Cathedral City formed the tri-valley coalition. This joining of communities as allowed us to work on issues of mutual interest, concern and benefit to our communities. This partnership, in concert with the Coachella Valley Partnership has allowed us the honor of being designated one of only 12 IHUBS in the state. Please allow me to remind you that it was Imperial County that chose to team up with San Diego and the San Diego Economic Development organization and not the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership. Our communities have made our choices based on what we see as our communities of interest, what our constituents need and want and as such, Imperial County chose to link to San Diego County.

A significant drivers of the economy here is the Coachella Valley is tourism, hence it is critical to allow Cathedral City to not continue to be disenfranchised and to keep our community and the Coachella Valley intact. Keeping these communities of interest intact will have significant positive impact on the economic future of our valley. As I stated during the hearing there is no commonality between the Coachella Valley Association of Governments and the Imperial County Council of Governments.

Again allow me to reiterate that several Coachella Valley and the Banning Pass cities of Banning and Beaumont are in the final stage of finalizing an emergency communication system (ERICA) that will link public safety in this entire area. The Palo Verde Valley, Blythe, is also a significant partner in CVAG. From a non partisan view, the first draft of the map was indeed fair and equitable to all involved and will serve the citizens of the area best.

Thank you for your time and thank you for who you are and your service on this very important commission.

Respectfully,

Kathleen DeRosa

Mayor, Cathedral City

*My name is Manuel (Manny) M. Rios, former Mayor, City of Coachella, I have written to the commission before regarding the redistricting of our area. I was delighted when your first draft was drawn indicating the Coachella Valley was left intact.*

*I realize that you have a major task in dealing with this issue, it is an issue that King Solomon himself would find himself having to make difficult decisions.*

*However, by following the guidelines established by the Proposition voted in by the voters last November, making the decision is make less difficult. Giving favor to one class because race, creed or religion creates the indecision.*

*I write again stating my case to your commission hoping it finds favor in helping you with your decision.*

*I have been honored to have served my community, the City of Coachella in many capacities. On the City Council, I served for 14 years, 6 years as Mayor, 4 years as Mayor ProTem, 4 years as Councilman.*

*During my tenure I was a founding member of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, served on the executive board 13 years. I was also a founding board member of the Sunline Transit Agency, served on the executive board for 11 years. I served on the Planning Commission for the City of Coachella for 8 years and on the board of directors for the Chamber of Commerce, for 4 years*

*I give you a profile of my background only to serve as a spring board for my comment.*

*I my years of service to my community and county, not once had I heard of any issue coming before any of the above mentioned boards of any issue dealing with Imperial County.*

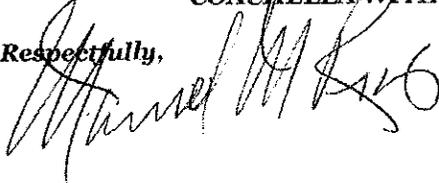
*I therefore request, respectfully, to please leave the Coachella Valley as a whole.*

*If there is an argument that states we would benefit more because we would have two representatives, in truth, unless both were from the same party, in effect they would end up cancelling each other. As such, we end up without a voice in any office.*

*Our valley must remain as one, we are connected in the Coachella Valley by tourism, it is true that agriculture is still a major part of our economy, but our socio economics is a mixture of both, with more weight towards tourism. If this is not true, then why is our unemployment in the City of Coachella up 24%. Certainly, our farmers are not producing less food for our tables or for export.*

**Please, keep the Coachella Valley intact,  
DO NOT SPLIT US UP AND INCLUDE THE  
COACHELLA WITH IMPERIAL VALLEY**

Respectfully,



**Good Day,**

**I want to share my strong opinion that the Coachella Valley should be kept as one voting district. The Coachella Valley is perhaps one of the most vibrantly growing districts in the State of California and it needs to be able to continue to guide itself successfully as it has done for the last 20 years. This dynamic growth pattern does not need to be intermingled with other areas and their concerns nor does it need to take a back seat by being associated with other areas that do not affect this valley. The negative impact of changing this voting district will far outweigh any positive impact that might be achieved by combining this voting district with another. There is a delicate balance of voting influence in our region and it works. Please do not upset our progress by compounding the voting balance.**

**Thank you for listening.**

**Michael A. Colton**

**[REDACTED]**

**Indian Wells, CA 92210**

**[REDACTED]**

July 11, 2011

Via email to: Votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

To: Members of the California Redistricting Commission

Re: Coachella Valley Redistricting Maps - Eastern Riverside County

Dear Chairman Yao and members of the Redistricting Commission:

My name is Lupe Ramos Watson, I am the Mayor of the City of Indio, Chair of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Energy Consumers Board, District 66 Regional Representative for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and a member of the Executive committee of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG).

I am a local representative who has first hand experience across inter-county and multi-jurisdictions that span a region from Rancho Mirage through Eastern Coachella Valley to Palo Verde Valley and Blythe and Imperial Valley. Therefore, I am uniquely qualified to share with you the diverse needs of the constituency in this southeastern portion of California.

The initial maps presented by the Commission grouped all cities in the Coachella Valley in one district. This made logical sense given the size of the cities located in the Coachella Valley and the various governmental agencies and services that our communities already share. Commission members should realize that residents in our community have nothing in common with Imperial County which is largely an agricultural area.

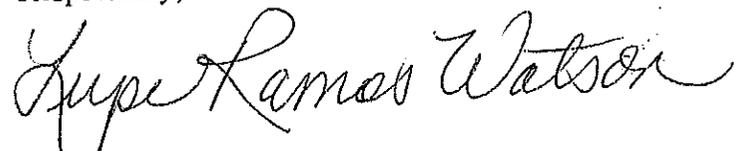
The residents of Indio have a tourism based economy in common together with similar race, ethnicity, income and education demographics of other cities in the Coachella Valley, namely: Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta and Coachella.

Please allow me to reaffirm that the first draft of the new map is indeed fair and equitable to our diverse community and will serve the citizens of the area best.

We thank you in advance for your attention to these comments and to ensure that the new district lines are no longer drawn by political lines, but rather for the benefit of residents who live and work in related communities that share common interests and municipal services.

Thank you for your time and thank you for who you are and your service on this very important commission.

Respectfully,



Lupe Ramos Watson  
Mayor, City of Indio

Indio, Ca 92201

## **this is how it went**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tue 7/12/11 12:32 PM  
To: [REDACTED]

**To the California Redistricting Commission,**

**After an initial sigh of relief, we here in the Coachella Valley are now threaten with division once again. Geographically, in the Coachella Valley there are nine connecting cities, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Indio and Coachella. Why is it that we recognize the importance of working together and producing an end line product that is good for our communities, residents and businesses and there is an insistent effort by others to continue to separate us?**

**I would at this time ask you to seriously re-consider forcing on us a political division. We need a strong voice for the Coachella Valley based on the "Common Interests" clause of your mandate.**

**Terry Henderson,  
Councilmember, La Quinta**

**Terry Henderson**



# City of La Quinta

[REDACTED]  
LA QUINTA, CALIFORNIA 92247-1504

[REDACTED]  
LA QUINTA, CALIFORNIA 92253

Via email to: [Votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:Votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov)

July 12, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
901 P Street, Suite 154-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attn: Commission Members

Re: Coachella Valley Redistricting Maps - Eastern Riverside County

Honorable Commission Members:

I am a resident and the Mayor Pro Tem for the City of La Quinta, located in the Coachella Valley in Riverside County. We are very concerned that the Commission is considering revising its initial maps for our community to include the eastern cities of the Coachella Valley with Imperial County. Although we respect the residents who live and work adjacent to the border, we strongly feel that the communities of Imperial County have more in common with San Diego County.

The initial maps presented by the Commission grouped all cities in the Coachella Valley into one district. This made logical sense given the size of the cities located in the Valley and the various governmental agencies and services that our communities already share. Commission members should realize that residents in our community have little in common with Imperial County, specifically, some agricultural area.

Residents of Imperial County already share a common border culture with San Diego County; they share Interstate 8, as well as many joint educational and health care facilities. The residents of La Quinta have a tourism based economy in common together with similar race, ethnicity, income and education demographics of other cities in the Coachella Valley, namely: Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, Indio, Cathedral City, and Coachella. Together, we have developed regional efforts to address tourism, workforce development, and economic development throughout the Coachella Valley. Municipalities support key



regionalization efforts, and redistricting will destroy the collaboration needed to persevere and succeed through such a challenging economy.

We respectfully request that the Commission re-confirm its initial redistricting maps for the eastern end of Riverside County and keep the cities of the Coachella Valley intact in one cohesive district.

We thank you in advance for your attention to our input. We need to be assured that new district lines are no longer drawn by political lines, but rather for the benefit of residents who live and work in related communities that share common interests and municipal services.

Sincerely,



Linda Evans, Mayor Pro Tem  
City of La Quinta

[REDACTED]  
La Quinta, CA 92253  
[REDACTED]

Douglas H Hanson  
Council Member  
City of Indian Wells, Ca.  
July 11, 2011

To: Members of the California Redistricting Commission

Re: Coachella Valley Redistricting Maps - Eastern Riverside County

Honorable Commission Members:

Please don't allow politics to interfere with your original redistricting decision. The Coachella Valley stretching from the Banning Pass to the Salton Sea has very little in common with Imperial County.

As a current business and property owner in the Imperial County, I can speak to this issue first hand. I also put the first Spanish language radio station on the air in Imperial County.

Most of the issues that Imperial County has to deal with are border and water related and because of this, their issues are more aligned with San Diego County. One only needs to look at a map to see the commonality of the border running from the Pacific Ocean to the Arizona border.

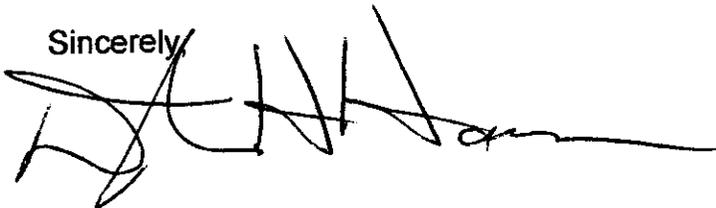
The future economic and sustainability issues that both San Diego County and Imperial County will face in the future demand that they receive representation by the same legislators.

It is because of these common interest issues, I ask you to consider the residents of Imperial County and San Diego County by keeping them together now and in the future.

Please re-confirm your initial redistricting maps for the eastern end of Riverside County and keep the cities of the Coachella Valley in tact in one cohesive district.

We thank you in advance for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas H Hanson', written over a white background.

Douglas H Hanson

Indian Wells, CA. 92210



# CITY OF INDIO

INDIO, CA 92201

*From the Desk of Elaine Holmes, City Council*

July 12, 2011

Dear CRC;

As a City Council member in the City of Indio, the success and prosperity of our city is very important to me. One of the keys to success of this valley is that we remain as one united Coachella Valley. When combined, the communities across this valley have strength and a single voice. Our multi-billion dollar tourism industry is successful because the entire Coachella Valley is represented as one. Further, the economic assets that drive business development are transportation, our educational institutions, and medical care, and they are most effective when the Coachella Valley operates as one single unit.

To put Indio in a district outside of the Coachella Valley would be detrimental to its growth, and competitiveness. The entire Coachella Valley must remain intact, in one district. I implore you to make decisions based on economic growth and keep Indio part of the greater Coachella Valley District.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Holmes".

Elaine Holmes  
Indio City Council

~~Speaker #6~~ 7/13/11  
Sac.

To: CA Citizen Redistricting Commission  
From: Ellen Swensen, Rancho Mirage  
Date: July 13, 2011

Honorable Commissioners,

I come here from the Coachella Valley to comment about the conflicting public testimony you are getting from our area. I hope that you will take my comments into strong consideration as you finalize your maps:

Option 1: Combining Imperial County with the Coachella Valley

- **This testimony is largely politically driven**, as shown in the attached letters A and B, sent to constituents by two political activists seeking CRC testimony letters. Letter A (from a former Assemblyperson and former Congressional candidate) clearly spells out the political benefits of combining Coachella Valley with Imperial. Notice that this is not about COI, it is about politics. Letter B (from an activist that sits on the Executive Board of his state party and has done work for the current AD80 incumbent) actually provides two boilerplate letters for folks to fill out!
- Look again and you will see that much of the testimony to combine Imperial and Coachella Valley is weak in COI evidence and full of repeated, politically-motivated boilerplate letters.

Option 2: Keeping Coachella Valley's Tourism COI Intact and Inside Riverside County

- By contrast, our body of quality testimony (112 comments or emails before the initial maps, at least 68 emails after the maps, plus 10 more emails in hand today) shows that our wishes are economically driven. This is about our shared livelihoods. Our COI is defined by resorts, golf, casinos, tennis, hotels, concerts, conventions, and a growing retirement population all here to partake and prosper in our unique desert climate and scenic beauty.
- To prove that our side is not political, the June 10 maps that we want you to keep are balanced by political party (within 2-4 points of each other).
- Our Tourism COI has little in common with the agricultural and border COI of Imperial County. The original testimony from San Diegans and Imperial Co folks wanting to be districted together in a "border district" was sincere and not political. This is why you drew the June 10 maps as you did. Since then, there has been little testimony (only 12 emails) from San Diego rejecting the June 10 border districts you drew.

The Coachella Valley is a vibrant, compact, contiguous COI focused on tourism. We are probably one of the most compact, unique and obvious COI's in the state and we respectfully ask that you allow us to have fair representation, not dilute our voices with an area focused on completely unrelated issues.

**Please keep the initial June 10 maps you drew for the Coachella Valley!**

Letter A



Thursday, July 7, 2011 11:01 AM

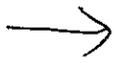
[ No Subject ]

From: "Ellen Swensen" [redacted]  
To: "Ellen Swensen" [redacted]

From: "Julie Bornstein" [redacted]  
Date: June 25, 2011 7:01:41 PM PDT  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Comment letters to Citizens' Redistricting Commission

← Former Assembly woman and 2008 Congressional candidate. Spokesperson for Riverside County Democrat Central Committee.

Dear Friends: As you know, California is in the middle of the Constitutionally-mandated redistricting process for Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts. This year, a citizen's commission, established by a vote of the people, is undertaking this process and you have the opportunity to express your wishes to them as they draw the legislative maps that will be used for the next ten years. I hope I can persuade you to get involved by sending an email with your thoughts.



Because of the growth in Riverside County, we have a chance to have new districts drawn that will give Democrats an opportunity to win more Assembly and Senate seats and replace Mary Boro Mack with a Democrat. This can happen if the Commission puts the eastern Coachella Valley and Imperial County together in the respective districts. For more than 20 years, Imperial and the Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valley have been in the same Senate and Assembly district—Congress should follow the same pattern in my opinion which would help address issues at the Salton Sea, among other important challenges we face in California's southern desert region.

If you are so inclined, an email from you, as a resident and voter in the Coachella Valley, to the Commission can help make these districts, more hospitable to progressive representation, happen. The deadline is this Tuesday at 5 pm. (see below). Your comment need not be long but we want to make the point that eastern Riverside County and Imperial County belong together. The Commission is proposing to link Imperial with San Diego County with whom they have very little in common which then results in parts of eastern Riverside County being attached to Morongo Valley to the north and Menifee to the south! So—it would be great if you would take a few minutes in the next couple of days to send your comment to the Commission (below) either by fax or email.

← not about COI, but about politics!

**Comments are accepted only until 5 pm on Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.** Comments can be emailed to: [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov) or faxed to the CRC at (916) 651-5711.

Many, many thanks!  
*Julie*  
[redacted]  
Palm Desert, California 92261