

From: **Gooch, Herbert** [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Apr 24, 2011 at 6:12 PM
Subject: Keep Ventura County Whole in Districting
To: "votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov" <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

With a population over 800,000 and a long and vibrant tradition of common interests, Ventura County should be retained as much as possible as a whole for redistricting purposes. Were the County to be districted apart, any resulting political representations would mutilate a vibrant whole body and, at best, substitute artificial for whole limbs.

Ventura County is united by history, geography, business ties, and socio-cultural identity. It is nestled between the greater Los Angeles area and the coastal and largely agricultural counties to the east and north. It defines itself in separation from them quite as much as it looks inward to its own resources for a sense of commonality.

A particularly poor choice would be to sever the east and west areas of the County, dumping the parts into larger districts whose geographical and population centers of gravity would pull those parts away from the center. Our common identity and interests would be rent apart and submerged in quite distinct and alien areas.

By keeping representation for the whole county, Ventura County is greater than the sum of its parts. By fragmenting representation, it is divided and diminished.

I urge you to make it whole in your deliberations. Thank you.

Herbert E. Gooch III, Ph.D., M.A., M.B.A.
Director, Masters in Public Policy and Administration Program
Professor, Department of Political Science
Swenson Social Sciences Building #221
[REDACTED]

