
Subject: Maintain the Integrity & Compactness of Desert Cities. We Are Not Imperial County!

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 9:33 AM

From: Constance Brennan [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Maintain the Integrity & Compactness of Desert Cities. We Are Not Imperial County!

Dear Commission Members:

My husband and I were unable to make the redistricting meeting on Thursday night, but we were alarmed to learn from those in attendance that there is an attempt to combine the Coachella Valley with Imperial Valley instead of keeping our Congressional district in Riverside County only.

The Coachella Valley is a distinct, cohesive "community of interest" ('COI'). Our main revenue source is tourism (not agricultural). We are a resort community with hotels, restaurants and special events that cater to visitors, often vast numbers of them.

In addition, we have the fastest growing retirement population in the state with a shared health care system that especially caters to our aging population.

We have a shared standard of living, composed almost exclusively of suburban bedroom communities. We are a geographically contiguous and compact community. We have shared transportation with the Palm Springs Airport, Hwy. 10, and Hwy. 111, and we have shared associations of governments, which do not include Imperial Valley.

We share local media and LA-based newspapers, TV and radio, and many second home owners have LA or Orange County primary homes, or alternatively have moved here from those areas.

Imperial County is another thing altogether. It has its own "community of interest" which is very different from the Coachella Valley. It is tied to, and should stay with, San Diego County. It's primary industry is agriculture (not tourism), and it has distinct environmental issues (i.e. the Salton Sea, New River, etc.). There are opportunities for the development of geothermal energy which is dissimilar to the Coachella Valley's wind and solar development.

The standard of living in Imperial County is rural and farm-related. They have unemployment and poverty challenges that are not shared with Coachella Valley.

They are geographically spread out, and are not contiguous with Coachella Valley.

Imperial County, along with San Diego County, has border issues with Mexico, they are

tied to San Diego County media and to San Diego County health care. Interstate 8 ties Imperial County to San Diego.

We realize the Commission is faced with a daunting task, but we beg you to consider these facts. The Desert Cities are a compact and integrated part of the Coachella Valley with shared common interests. Keep our Congressional district in Riverside County only.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Constance Brennan & Jhan Schmitz

[REDACTED]

Indio, CA 92203