

June 27, 2011

Fax: (916) 651-5711

Chairman Yao and Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I've recently reviewed the first draft maps that pertain to the Coachella Valley. I fully agree with the way the maps were drawn and the communities that were included. I feel that these maps adequately represent the Coachella Valley in regards to communities of interests.

As Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Indian Wells our city, like many in the Coachella Valley depend on tourism to drive our economy. With world class resorts, golf tournaments, major events like the Palm Springs Film Festival, Coachella Arts and Music Festival and our very own Desert Town Hall Speakers Forum, tourism is the driving force behind our economy.

Our tourism industry is dependent on both the I-10 corridor and the Palm Springs International Airport. The city of Indian Wells along with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) work very hard to ensure that these transportation corridors receive adequate funding.

The San Geronio Pass which includes the cities of Banning, Beaumont and Cabazon, have long been considered the gateway to the Coachella Valley. These neighboring communities make a natural fit in our Congressional District.

The Coachella Valley has very little in common with the Imperial County. Imperial has often been linked with San Diego County because of the Interstate 8 corridor as well as the US-Mexico border. Imperial County is an agriculture dominated county. Linking our valley with the Imperial County would hurt our tourism industry as focus would be shifted to Agriculture.

Again I urge you to keep the first draft maps of the Coachella Valley intact. The Coachella Valley should remain entirely within Riverside County. I feel that the communities of interest have been more than adequately met.

Sincerely,



William T. Powers
Vice Chairman, Palm Springs Desert Resorts CVA
Chairman, McCallum Theatre
Past Chairman, Coachella Valley Economic Partnership
Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Indian Wells