

[REDACTED]  
Rancho Mirage, Ca. 92270  
June 27, 2011

## URGENT APPEAL

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street – Suite 101  
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

RE: YOUR PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICT MAP – COACHELLA VALLEY

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to appeal your proposed Congressional redistricting map for the Coachella Valley. I am writing in total dismay and disappointment in what you have proposed. I am urging you to re-consider.

I wrote to you earlier this summer prior to the release of your proposed draft map as a local, long-time resident of the Coachella Valley and as a concerned, well-educated Mexican-American ( degree from University of Southern California and a master's degree from San Jose State University). As a child I worked in the fields in the Coachella Valley and Imperial County, and I am concerned about the large Spanish speaking populations that would be disenfranchised if Imperial County is not part of the Coachella Valley district. I am particularly concerned because the communities in Imperial County have more in common with cities in the Coachella Valley ( such as Indio, Coachella, Mecca, etc.) and yet the commission is proposing a district that does not include Imperial County like-kind communities but includes retirement communities of Hemet and San Jacinto which have almost nothing in common with Coachella Valley!

I am proposing that you re-map the Congressional district this way:

New Congressional district:

Morongo and Desert Hot Springs  
All Coachella Valley cities and the rest of Riverside County out to Blythe  
Imperial County

Discard from your proposed district:

Beaumont pass cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa  
Hemet  
San Jacinto

Here are SIX major reasons to consider:

**JOB:** Jobs in the Coachella Valley cities and Imperial County are much more aligned due to agriculture, the newly developing and possibly huge job markets in SOLAR energy, transportation, tourism, and communities of interest for farm workers, medical professionals and others that would link the two regions. I am especially concerned about Latino citizens in these common communities of interest and how they would be served and engaged if combined. It simply makes no sense, when considering the Voting Rights Act, to include Hemet and not include the large populations of Spanish speaking residents of Imperial County with those Spanish speaking communities of east and south Coachella Valley.

**SALTON SEA:** In your proposed map, this hugely problematic area needs the attention of one representative, not two as you have proposed! The Salton Sea can be addressed once and for all with a much-needed cohesive Congressional representation. The Salton Sea communities in Imperial County and the cities in south and east Coachella Valley especially share common problems regarding air quality, wildlife and fish preservation and concerns, community development around the Salton Sea area and the mere survival of the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea area should be represented in Congress in ONE and the SAME district. The communities of Hemet, San Jacinto, the Banning pass and communities in San Diego have little or no interest in the Salton Sea!

**SHOPPING AND COMMERCE:** Imperial County residents tend to shop and do business much more in the Coachella Valley cities. Residents in Imperial do not travel over a mountain range with limited accessibility to San Diego County to conduct business and shop.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Imperial County residents use the Palm Springs International Airport in the Coachella Valley much more often they would by traveling to the San Diego airport. Residents in Hemet and San Jacinto use the Ontario airport! Proposed much needed improvements in rail and bus service are more common in Coachella and Imperial than in Hemet! And, the trucking industry— linking agriculture, highway access and commerce— obviously is more common between Coachella and Imperial—not Hemet!

**MEDIA AND INFORMATION:** A combined district of Coachella and Imperial would be a much more effective district to get radio, newsprint and other media attention in order to engage communities and get out vital information. Hemet/San Jacinto folks do not read the same newspapers or watch the same news programs/stations or listen to the same radio outlets as those in Coachella and Imperial. The markets simply are totally different. This is extremely important when encouraging citizens to be engaged and informed about civic, educational, political and other regional concerns and needs.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:** It should be totally obvious that Coachella Valley and Imperial County regions share common public safety concerns and needs than do residents of Hemet/San Jacinto. When considering emergency preparedness (earthquake, fires, etc.), communities in the Coachella Valley and Imperial County share certain and immediate

concerns which could save lives and property. Again, Hemet/San Jacinto residents do not have the same concerns!

In summary, what you are proposing does NOT properly reflect communities of interest and your proposed district certainly does not address concerns and engagement of Spanish speaking communities apart from the Hemet/San Jacinto areas. The sizable populations of Spanish speaking communities of south and east Coachella Valley mirror those of the Spanish speaking communities in Imperial County!

Please re-consider your proposed Congressional map. Please combine Coachella Valley cities and all of Imperial County into one cohesive district that would much better reflect what our communities of interest share.

Sincerely,



George Garcia

