

# REGION 2 - RIVERSIDE

RECEIVED JUN 29 REC'D

June 25, 2011

Charlie Ara

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Palm Desert, CA 92260  
[REDACTED]

Members of the redistricting commission,

I am a resident of Palm Desert, CA. I know the Coachella Valley very well and would like to share some information with you.

Why not take a drive and visit towns like Coachella, Mecca, and Thermal? See how agriculture dominates these communities and surrounding areas.

As you take a drive in Coachella Valley you will see thousands of acres of crops growing in the sun. As you pass to Imperial County you will see a continuation of these growing fields – there is no ending of the agriculture as you pass the county border – just a continuation the huge agriculture business from one county to another.

Although this region is a desert, with high temperatures and low average rainfall of three inches per year, the economy is heavily based on agriculture due to irrigation in the valley, which gives us a year-round growing season. The Coachella and Imperial valleys' agricultural miracle (also called "Magic Valley") is due in part to irrigation, an underground aquifer from the era when the valley was under a fresh water lake in the last ice age (over 10,000 years ago), and the All-American Canal completed in the late 1940s which brought large supplies of water from the Colorado River.

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As you continue driving in the desert you will come to towns like Brawley, and Imperial. Notice their similarity to the towns of Coachella, Mecca, and Thermal.

The towns are similar to the Coachella Valley because of their dependence on agriculture, and the ethnic make-up of their populations. Both counties are part of the Great Southwest Desert. They are one area.

✓ Please change the present map so that Imperial County and the Coachella Valley are in the same Congressional, Senate and Assembly Districts.

Sincerely,

*Charlie Ara*

Charlie Ara

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