

regional, national and world famous visitor destinations with hundreds of miles of spectacular coastline, charming cities and villages, and magnificent open back country mountains and valleys. Both host world class institutions of higher learning. In part, and as a result, both counties also host a variety of cutting edge technology firms. Both Counties contain major military installations and many retired veterans choose to live here.

The two counties are connected by one of California's main north/south arteries, US Highway 101, and a main north/ south line of the Union Pacific Rail Road which provides freight service to many of the cities within the County. National intercity passenger service is provided by Amtrak. Regional intercity and commuter train service is provided by the California State Department of Transportation.

No social/demographic communities would be divided by the proposed configuration.

Both Counties share the same climate, cultural and political history, and are highly committed to environmental preservation.

e. The District would be compact because both counties are rectilinear and share an extensive border. They are both bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west and extensive mountains on the east which separate them from the San Joaquin Valley.

2. State Assembly Districts. It is proposed that all of Santa Barbara County and the southernmost portion of San Luis Obispo County (Nipomo-Oceano) be included in one State Assembly District. It is further proposed that the balance of San Luis Obispo County and the southernmost part of Monterey County be included in one State Assembly District.

a. The Santa Barbara County/Nipomo district is configured to comport with the Commission's 465,000 population target. Santa Barbara County has 432,981 people, Nipomo 16,714 people and the Oceano village and agricultural area 8,000 for a total of 457,695 which approaches the target.

The San Luis Obispo County/Southern/Central Monterey district would contain 246,000 people in San Luis Obispo County and 219,000 in Monterey County, primarily in the Salinas Valley to reach the Commission's 465,000 target.

b. The districts would comport with the Civil Rights Act.

c. The districts' boundaries would be connected at all points.

d. To the maximum extent possible the proposed districts would not divide communities of interest. Santa Barbara County would be undivided. San Luis Obispo County would be largely in one district except for the Nipomo portion. No cities, unincorporated townships and villages would be divided in either County. The Nipomo area is a mixture of row crop and strawberry agriculture and large lot residential. A number of area farmers have farms in both counties. Economically it is adjacent to and functionally linked to the City of Santa Maria and the very extensive strawberry and row crop development of the Santa Maria Valley. Santa Maria serves as the area's main labor market center and retail center.

The San Luis Obispo County/Southern/Central Monterey district would sever the Nipomo areas from San Luis Obispo County, but as noted above, its residents and farmers are heavily linked economically and functionally to Santa Maria in Santa Barbara County. Conversely agriculture in central and northern San Luis Obispo County is dominated by wine grapes (not strawberries and row crops) and cattle. These crops are linked to cities of Atascadero, Paso Robles, Templeton and San Luis Obispo.

e. Both districts would be compact and without irregular boundaries.

3. State Senate District

It is proposed that all of Santa Barbara County, all of San Luis Obispo County, and southern and central Monterey County be in one State Senate district.

By combining Santa Barbara County (432,981 population), San Luis Obispo County (271,821 population and southern and central Monterey County (226,547 population out of a total of 433,887), the new Senate District would have the 931,349 target population. The 226,547 Monterey portion would be principally comprised of the incorporated Salinas Valley Cities (Salinas, 150,441; Gonzales, 8,187; Greenfield, 16,330; King City 12,874; and Soledad, 25,738). These total 213,570. The balance of 12,977 would be in the surrounding unincorporated area. This district would comport with the Commission's criteria as follows:

a. It would achieve the target Senate district population of 931,349.

b. It would conform to the Voting Rights Act.

c. The district would be contiguous and its boundaries would connect.

d. It would not divide any communities of interest except for the County of Monterey. This division would not be problematical as the line would separate the rural overwhelmingly agricultural part of the County from the urban and densely populated cities of the Monterey Peninsula. The northern part of the County functions as a major destination resort area and is financially, historically, and culturally tied to San Francisco as a second home weekend getaway and vacation retreat. It is also an education center as it hosts two distinguished Federal military schools, the U. S. Army Defense Language Institute and the U. S. Navy Post Graduate School. It also hosts the Stanford University Marine Biology Station and the California State University at Monterey.

No cities would be divided. The predominantly agricultural region would be in the same Senate District with San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County where the main industry is agriculture. It would thus combine a community of interest. It would not divide any social or economic communities of interest. In fact, it would promote consolidation of the central coast's Hispanic voters into one Senate District. Monterey County has 53.9 % Hispanic population largely concentrated in the Salinas valley which would be in the district. San Luis Obispo County has 19.6 % Hispanic population and Santa Barbara County has 40.4% Hispanic population. All three County seats would be in the Senatorial district.

e. The district would be compact and follow natural boundaries of the Pacific Ocean on the west and the mountains which separate the 3 central coast counties from the San Joaquin

Valley on the east. Its principle cities and most of its smaller cities are connected by US Highway 101 and the Union Pacific Rail Road.

f. Its boundaries would contain two whole Assembly districts and one half of a third.

Thank you for your service on the Commission and your consideration of this plan. Please to not hesitate to call should you need clarification or assistance.

Respectfully submitted,


Andy Caldwell
Executive Director

cc: Michael F. Brown, Director of Government Affairs