

REGION 6: FRESNO

El Concilio de Fresno

NON-PROFIT CONSORTIUM

A UNITED EFFORT
FOR A STRONGER
COMMUNITY

Fresno, California 93744-4236



July 21, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 "K" Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Commissioners:

This letter is a continuation of El Concilio de Fresno, Inc.'s concern and desire to make sound and constructive recommendations on the redistricting, based on the latest visualizations you have made available. We, like other Latino organizations have compiled information and analysis from your sources provided and from community workshops and webinars offered by Latino professional organizations like NALÉO and MALDEF.

We make the following comments and recommendations taken from the "Unity" map presented to you the Commission by Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the African American Redistricting Collaborative, and the Asian Pacific Legal Center. The "Unity" map presents to us what is possible in order to respect the voting rights of all of California's diverse communities.

Statewide Comment:

The Commission should evaluate whether current visualizations sufficiently protect the voting rights of the Latino community

State Assembly Visualizations:

Central Valley:

1. The Latino population in the Central Valley has grown significantly over the past decade and in order to protect the voting rights of the Latino community the Commission should create a second Latino effective district, with LCVAP of 50% or greater. Specifically, the Commission should increase the LCVAP of the KINGS district.

2.

2. The commission should continue to utilize the 99 Freeway as a dividing line for Bakersfield. East of the 99 is a strong Latino community that should be placed in a Latino effective district.
3. The Commission should include the communities of East Orosi, Goshen, Seville Lemon Cove, Tulare, Woodville, Pixley, Terra Bella, Ducor, and Rich Grove in a Latino effective district. These communities are a community of interest and share agricultural interests, members of the community are bilingual English and Spanish , or are primarily Spanish speaking.
4. The Commission should continue to keep Sanger in a Latino effective district.
5. There is a natural divide between rural and urban Fresno, with a loose boundary that occurs along the Santa Fe railroad lines. The urban areas of Fresno should be maintained in the current Section 2 district.

State Senate Visualizations:**Central Valley:**

1. The Commission should add the heavily Latino neighborhoods of Tulare and Visalia in the KINGS district. These communities share social and economic characteristics with the Latino communities of interest in KINGS.

Congressional Visualizations:**Central Valley:**

1. The Commission should evaluate whether the current configurations which include only one Latino effective district, sufficiently protect the voting rights of the Latino community. The Commission should consider adding a Latino effective district in compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act for the Central Valley, by strengthening the LCVAP in the MRECED district.
2. The communities of East Porterville, Orange Cove, East Orosi the and southwest part of the City of Fresno, share common social and economic characteristics and should be included in a Latino effective district.

We again request the Commission in its wisdom and through its ambitious task, continue to give high priority our comments and recommendations. You have given us hope by your previous attention and response to our presentations at Hanford (April 15) and at Fresno (June 23). One day government will be more responsive also to our aspirations and dreams, not to us in particular, but to our children.

3.

Cordially,



Venancio G. Gaona, Chair

Fresno, CA 93727