

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Stanislaus

From: Bob Gutierrez [REDACTED]

Date: 7/22/2011 3:44 PM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Bob Gutierrez <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Central Valley

Message Body:

I didnt receive an email confirmation this morning so I am foolowing up on the website to insure this is submitted.

thank you,

Commission,

During the course of your discussions we have followed many of the adjustments that you have made based on public testimony and recommendations.

One of the recommendations that we had yet to submit testimony on was related to the Central Valley assembly districts that are known as the Merced District and the StanSJ Districts. Based on the current lines we see a missed opportunity to diversify the Latino population in both districts.

Here is our recommendation:

1. By removing Turlock fromt the current Stan district and placing it into the Merced District you will have the ability to include such areas as Ceres, Keyes and the hwy 99 corridor with the SanSJ Assembly district.

this will provide two things:

1. Diverse hispanic representation as Ceres is a growing region for Latinos and represents a large Ag base.
2. It connects Turlock with the Merced District which will balance out the diversity of the merced district.

We view this as an important opportunity for this region. While most of the districts in the region have been well planned and have a great representation for the populations they serve; this will be an added benefit to the both districts.

Thank you for your consideration. We realize this is later than maybe expected, however we were hoping to see adjustments to this region that have just not come to the visualisation stage.

Thank you in advance,

Bob Gutierrez

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Central Valley Assembly

From: Bob Gutierrez [REDACTED]

Date: 7/22/2011 3:21 PM

To: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Commission,

During the course of your discussions we have followed many of the adjustments that you have made based on public testimony and recommendations.

One of the recommendations that we had yet to submit testimony on was related to the Central Valley assembly districts that are known as the Merced District and the StanSJ Districts. Based on the current lines we see a missed opportunity to diversify the Latino population in both districts.

Here is our recommendation:

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We view this as an important opportunity for this region. While most of the districts in the region have been well planned and have a great representation for the populations they serve; this will be an added benefit to the both districts.

Thank you for your consideration. We realize this is later than maybe expected, however we were hoping to see adjustments to this region that have just not come to the visualisation stage.

Thank you in advance,

Bob Gutierrez

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Stanislaus

From: Bill Bassitt [REDACTED]

Date: 7/22/2011 11:37 AM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Bill Bassitt <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Proposed Senate districts

Message Body:

You can't be serious in trisecting Stanislaus County. Turlock-a prime agricultural area-in the same district with the Sierras and Death Valley. Three senate districts in a county as large as Stanislaus. Once again the Central Valley is being compromised for balance in the rest of the state and further reduces the legitimate representation and influence in Sacramento. Please look again at the impact of this current rendition on the Central Valley in general and Stanislaus in particular. Thank you.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Stanislaus

From: Joseph Romeo <[REDACTED]>

Date: 7/22/2011 9:21 PM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Joseph Romeo <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Senate norcal

Message Body:

Turlock is a city that has an agriculturally based economy. Thus, it belongs with other communities that have AG based economies.

- The Merced Senate district includes communities in Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno San Benito and Monterey Counties that all have AG based economies.
- Turlock has much in common with those communities including: common economic concerns, highway 99 transportation issues, farm worker/labor issues, fears of water shortages, and a significant Spanish speaking population.
- Under the current visualization, Turlock is included in a district which stresses from Rancho Cordova in Sacramento County to Death Valley in Southern California. The district does not have flatland AG interests, has no ties to the Highway 99 corridor, has a radically different economy, has health care concerns that are totally foreign to those faced by the people who live in Turlock.
- Under the current visualization, Turlock is linked to foothill counties like Amador, Calaveras, and Mariposa as well as mountain counties like Inyo and Mono. As noted, it is also linked to suburban Sacramento - but totally isolated from other Central Valley communities. Under the current configuration, the city and its interests will be ignored as representatives will struggle to represent such a massive seat and be unable to balance AG, suburban and mountain region concerns.
- It would make more sense to include Turlock (population 68,549) with the Merced seat and have the Merced seat shed some population in the Fresno area near Fowler and Kingsburg. Both these cities and the population in that area are south of the city of Fresno and far more connected to that city than to the communities in the Merced seat.
- You could make these changes and both seats would be improved.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Stanislaus

From: Chris Vierra - Mayor of Ceres <[REDACTED]>

Date: 7/22/2011 7:10 AM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Chris Vierra - Mayor of Ceres <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Redistrict Maps

Message Body:

Thanks for listening. Your current visualization of the Senate District Merced is not perfect, but is much improved. Thank you for eliminating ties to San Jose and the Silicon Valley.

While we'd prefer an all central valley seat, we understand that you need to make some compromises to meet the Voting Rights Act.

While Ceres did not want to be part of a district that stretched to San Jose, we believe we belong in the new and improved Merced seat.

One additional improvement you could make is including Turlock with Ceres in the Merced seat. Our fellow councilmembers in Turlock have expressed concern that their community would be ignored if it were included in a district that stretched from Sacramento to Inyo County.

We agree and would hope you honor their request to be included with Ceres in the Merced seat.

Ceres Mayor
Chris Vierra

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Stanislaus

From: Chris Vierra - Mayor City of Ceres <[REDACTED]>

Date: 7/22/2011 7:06 AM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Chris Vierra - Mayor City of Ceres <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Proposed Redistricting Lines

Message Body:

Thanks for listening to the voices in the central valley and revising your maps. Your current visualization of the Senate District Merced is not perfect, but is much improved. Thank you for eliminating ties to San Jose and the Silicon Valley.

While we'd prefer an all central valley seat, we understand that you need to make some compromises to meet the Voting Rights Act.

While Ceres did not want to be part of a district that stretched to San Jose, we believe we belong in the new and improved Merced seat.

One additional improvement you could make is including Turlock with Ceres in the Merced seat. Our fellow councilmembers in Turlock have expressed concern that their community would be ignored if it were included in a district that stretched from Sacramento to Inyo County.

We agree and would hope you honor their request to be included with Ceres in the Merced seat.

City of Ceres Mayor
Chris Vierra

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Stanislaus

From: Chris Vierra - Mayor City of Ceres <[REDACTED]>

Date: 7/22/2011 7:07 AM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Chris Vierra - Mayor City of Ceres <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Proposed Redistricting Lines

Message Body:

Thanks for listening to the voices in the central valley and revising your maps. Your current visualization of the Senate District Merced is not perfect, but is much improved. Thank you for eliminating ties to San Jose and the Silicon Valley.

While we'd prefer an all central valley seat, we understand that you need to make some compromises to meet the Voting Rights Act.

While Ceres did not want to be part of a district that stretched to San Jose, we believe we belong in the new and improved Merced seat.

One additional improvement you could make is including Turlock with Ceres in the Merced seat. Our fellow councilmembers in Turlock have expressed concern that their community would be ignored if it were included in a district that stretched from Sacramento to Inyo County.

We agree and would hope you honor their request to be included with Ceres in the Merced seat.

City of Ceres Mayor
Chris Vierra

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Redistricting Comment Letter

From: President <[REDACTED]>

Date: 7/22/2011 3:05 PM

To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the redistricting maps that were recently released. I know that you and your staff have spent many hours on these maps, and I commend you for your efforts and your willingness to serve.

I would like to raise a concern about the proposed state senate districts. In the most recently released map, Turlock, the home of CSU Stanislaus, is placed in the Foothill District. I believe that the constituents in Turlock, including the university, would be better served by placing the city in the Merced District. Since the boundary between those two districts lies directly south of Turlock, shifting the boundary to include Turlock in the Merced District would be relatively easy. To account for the change in population, portions of the Merced District in Merced, Madera or Fresno counties could be shifted into the Foothill District. It may make the most sense to shift the small towns in Fresno county, like Fowler and Kingsburg, into the Foothill District to keep them with Clovis.

Pushing the university into the Foothill District separates the university from the majority of the surrounding communities that it serves and from many of its students who commute to the university from these surrounding communities. By placing the university on the fringe of a massive district among communities that the university has little or no connection to, the university will have to struggle to be heard among the disparate interests. This is of particular concern to me during this time of great financial uncertainty for public higher education. Separating the university from its surrounding communities makes it much more difficult for the university to have strong representation in the State Senate.

From a wider perspective, keeping Turlock with Merced would make for a better Merced District by keeping natural constituency interests aligned. Turlock is in the heart of the Central Valley and is rooted in an agriculturally-based economy. These agricultural interests have little in common with the communities in the foothills and mountains.

Turlock is very much interconnected, however, with Merced and the other communities in the Merced District. They have agricultural economies with similar concerns about farm labor issues, water supply, and agricultural regulations. They rely on the same transportation corridors and these corridors connect these communities to each other as well as to the rest of the state: Highway 99 connects Turlock to Merced to the south and Ceres a few miles to the north, Patterson lies directly west on a county expressway which also leads to Interstate 5, and State Highway 140 goes south out of Turlock to Los Banos. They share concerns about similar land use issues, the spread of gang violence, and air quality.

Most of these communities, including Merced, Ceres, Los Banos, and Madera also lie within the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). It is critical that Turlock be placed in a state senate district that lies within the SJVAPCD. The SJVAPCD has become one of the most prominent regulating agencies in the Central Valley and many of these regulations affect our agricultural and agricultural-related businesses, other businesses, and the university. With an increasing number of

regulations coming from the SJVAPCD, it is crucial that Turlock be represented by a state senator who will be sensitive to concerns about air quality and these regulations. Only a sliver of the Foothill District lies within the SJVAPCD, and the foothill and mountain communities do not have the severe air quality issues that are the result of lying within a valley basin.

Pushing Turlock into the Foothill District only places it at an extreme disadvantage. I hope that you will consider placing Turlock with Merced and the allied interests in the Merced District.

I would be happy to discuss these concerns with you should you have any questions. A hard copy of this comment letter will also be sent through the mail.

Regards,

Hamid Shirvani, Ph.D.
President
California State University, Stanislaus

[REDACTED]
Turlock, CA 95382

[REDACTED] – Office

[REDACTED] – Fax
[REDACTED]