

Subject: Redistricting Comment

From: "Vito Chiesa" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 29 Jul 2011 13:35:12 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Please see attached letter

[redistricting comment.pdf](#)



July 29, 2011

I would like to commend the Redistricting Committee on its work thus far in what is an important, yet extremely challenging, process. Your outreach efforts and focus on public participation is why the commission was formed and your dedication to fulfilling its purpose is appreciated. My reason for this correspondence is to comment on the current draft and how it affects the City of Turlock.

Turlock is a flatland city within Stanislaus County that has an agriculturally based economy similar to Merced, Fresno, San Benito and Monterey Counties. Under the State Senate Final Draft, Turlock is linked to foothill and mountain counties that have contradictory economic, transportation, water, air quality and health care concerns.

As proposed, Turlock is isolated from other Central Valley communities in a district that includes foothill and mountain counties such as Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Inyo and Mono. These areas do not have flatland agriculture interests, have no ties to the Highway 99 corridor and have radically different economies.

It would make more sense to include Turlock (population 68,549) with the Merced Senate seat. Turlock's agricultural identity and heritage align with communities such as Merced and Madera; they face similar economic concerns, Highway 99 corridor and transportation issues, farm worker and labor issues, fears of water shortages and a significant Spanish speaking population. Advocacy efforts are only effective when voters can elect a responsive representative in a district without competing interests.

The proposed Merced seat could appropriately shed some population in the Fresno area near Fowler and Kingsburg. Both cities and the population in that area are south of the City of Fresno and are far more connected to that city than to the communities currently included in the Merced seat.

If this change can be made, I believe that both seats would greatly improve.

Sincerely,

Vito Chiesa

Supervisor, District 2
Stanislaus County