

AGPA01

From: Kathryn Black [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 11, 2010 11:49 PM
To: Voters First Act
Subject: Public Comment regarding Selection of Final 6 Commissioners.

I am re-sending this comment, since the email address is different from the first one I sent...in case the first one was over-looked. My opinion hasn't changed.

Kathryn Black

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kathryn Black [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Dec 9, 2010 at 10:32 AM
Subject: Public Comment regarding Selection of Final 6 Commissioners.
To: votersfirstact@bsa.ca.gov

To The Citizens Redistricting Commission:

My name is Kathryn Black. I live in Tulare County in the southern Sierra Nevada foothills of the San Joaquin Valley. I applied to be on the CRC, and was in the final group of 60. Over the past year I have familiarized myself with the Voters First Act, and the intentions of the voters in first passing the Act, and in defeating the attempts to overturn it this fall.

It seems to me, that unless an effort is made by the first Eight Commissioners to adhere to the spirit of the Act, and ensure geographic diversity on the Commission, the intent of the voters will be ignored. Historically, the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent mountain areas have been neglected in the redistricting process. This is a huge area of California, with specific needs and interests, and a growing population.

Currently there is only one remaining candidate in the applicant pool who could represent this area of the State. The applicant, Teresa M. Espana, is from Fresno, and a member of the Green Party. I have read through her applications, official written recommendations, and the additional public comments. She appears to be a wonderful candidate, and would give our region a much-needed voice. She will be aware of the widespread poverty which afflicts our region, in addition to the ethnic, agricultural, water and conservation issues which are particular to the southern San Joaquin and mountain areas.

If Ms Espana is not selected, there is no remaining candidate from the Southern interior and mountain region. As it is, the entire eastern side of the Sierra Nevada is completely unrepresented.

With the exception of Mr Forbes, who is from Northern California, the first 8 Commissioners are from urban areas, almost all of them Coastal. This is the result of the Legislative strikes, and the following random drawing. I suggest that a Commission without at least one member from the south central and mountain region will not reflect the intent of

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