

Region VI Wrap-Up

Executive Summary delivered on April 29, 2011

The following is a summary of the major points that have been raised through public testimony about Region VI. It is not an exhaustive list of every public comment; those are available in a MS Access Database. Also, there are no recommendations in this document. It is merely a summary of what was communicated and proposed by the public and any technical notes related to those proposals of which the Commission should be aware.

Bakersfield: April 14, 2011

* 35 Input Hearing public speakers

Hanford: April 15, 2011 (VRA Section 5 County)

* 28 Input Hearing public speakers

Merced: April 16, 2011 (VRA Section 5 County)

* 27 Input Hearing public speakers

Publicly Submitted Written Comments on Region VI: 15 (note this is not 15 additional individuals because some of the 90 hearing speakers also submitted written comments)

Note: The cut-off date for public comments to be incorporated in this document was April 19, 2011. Public comments received after this date will be included in subsequent Executive Summaries to the Commission.

I. PUBLICLY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS:

1. **Keep San Joaquin County whole.**

- Technical Notes (from Q2):
 - Because San Joaquin County's total population is 685,306, San Joaquin County could fully comprise one assembly district and add 219,632 individuals (47.16%) to a second. San Joaquin County's deviation from a senate district is -246,043 and is -17,599 from a congressional district. The following items reflect public testimony on where necessary splits could be made.
- To split SJ County for Assembly Districts: (as expressed by the public):
 - Split SJ County along Calaveras River.
(Proposed by 3 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)
 - Make sure Stockton is whole inside one Assembly District.
(Proposed by 2 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)
- Proposals for areas to combine with San Joaquin County to increase numbers (as expressed by the public):
 - Include Galt (lower Sacramento County) with San Joaquin County.
(Proposed by 3 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)
 - Include parts of Northern Stanislaus County.
(Proposed by 3 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)
 - SJ County prefers to be combined with regions going North/South versus East/West.
(Proposed by 1 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)

2. **Draw a district that would run along the mountainous ridge east of the San Joaquin Valley.**

(Proposed by 1 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)

- Pros (as expressed by the public):
 - The COIs of the foothills/mountains are more similar than to those of the Valley floor and they need their own representation.

- Cons (as expressed by the public):
 - This would require splitting multiple Counties within the San Joaquin Valley and only capturing the eastern part of the Counties.
- Technical Notes (from Q2):
 - Proposed district containing intact El Dorado, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties and eastern regions of Madera and Fresno counties leaves a deviation of -78,725 for an assembly district, -544,400 for a senate district, and -315,956 for an assembly district.

3. Keep farm worker & disadvantaged communities in Kern County together

(Proposed by 5 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)

- Pros (as expressed by the public):
 - These towns and neighborhoods have major infrastructure issues and need a voice/representation.
- Technical Notes (from Q2):
 - The farm worker communities of Weedpatch, Lamont, Arvin, and East Bakersfield (defined by public testimony as areas of Bakersfield east of Highway 99 and South of Kern River), and nearby Census Places represent a population of 284,076, leaving a deviation of -181,598 for an assembly district. This area's voting age population contains 41.73% Hispanic.
 - The farm worker communities of Weedpatch, Lamont, Arvin, East Bakersfield (defined by public testimony as areas of Bakersfield east of Highway 99 and South of Kern River), Wasco, Shafter, Oildale, Rosedale and nearby Census Places represent a population of 379,753, leaving a deviation of -85,921 for an assembly district. This area's voting age population contains 38.66% Hispanic.

4. Keep Kern County whole

(Stated by 5 out of 90 public speakers and 1 out of 15 written public comments.)

- Pros (as expressed by the public):
 - Residents of Kern County are from the Valley and have more in common with each other than with Ventura or LA Counties.
- Cons (as expressed by the public):
 - Kern County has been divided culturally between east and west ,along the Tehachapi Mountain range, for a long time.
- Technical Notes (from Q2):
 - Because Kern County's total population is 839,631, it could fully comprise one assembly district and add 373,957 individuals (80.3%) to another. Kern County's population deviation for a senate district is -91,718 and is +136,726 for a congressional district. Kern County's voting age population is 30.56% Hispanic.

5. Keep Fresno County whole

(Stated by 3 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)

- Pros (as expressed by the public):
 - Fresno County is made up of farming communities.
- Cons (as expressed by the public):
 - West Fresno County agriculture issues (west of Highway 99) are different from East Fresno County agriculture issues
- Technical Notes (from Q2):

- Because Fresno County's total population is 930,450, Fresno County could comprise one complete assembly district and add 464,766 individuals (99.81%) of a second. Fresno County's deviation from a senate district is -899 and is +227,545 from a congressional district. Fresno County's voting age population contains 38.38% Hispanic.

II. ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS ABOUT REGION

* **Keep Stockton whole**

(Stated by 3 out of 90 public speakers and 1 out of 15 written public comments.)

- **Pros:** Stockton is currently split up between districts and needs to be represented by one person.

* **Keep Bakersfield whole**

(Stated by 1 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)

- **Pros:** Greater Bakersfield area residents share economic and social interests.
- **Cons:** East Bakersfield has more in common with farm worker towns to the east of city than it does with the rest of the city; southwest Bakersfield area is different from central and east Bakersfield.

* **Maintain Fresno City Neighborhoods**

(Stated by 5 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)

- **Pros:** Specific areas of Fresno City have great cultural diversity and share social issues and concerns.

* **Put Tulare County with other Valley counties (Kern, Kings) and separate from San Bernardino County**

(Stated by 4 out of 90 public speakers and 0 out of 15 written public comments.)

- **Pros:** Tulare County is part of the Central Valley and doesn't belong with San Bernardino County.

* **Keep Merced County whole and Madera County whole and put with each other but not with Fresno**

(Stated by 6 out of 90 public speakers and 1 out of 15 written public comments.)

- **Pros:** Merced and Madera Counties have diverse and strong communities, and should not be split up between valley and mountain sections.
- **Cons:** The foothill/mountain community is different from the valley communities.

III. COLLECTION OF COMMUNITY OF INTEREST DATA:

- * Community of Interest (COI) data was collected from 60 out of 90 speakers and 8 out of 15 written comments. In Region VI, the public described communities of interest that spanned counties, cities, towns, geographic features and neighborhoods, especially neighborhoods in the cities of Bakersfield and Fresno. This material will continue to be utilized by the Commission in future deliberations.

IV. FINAL TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Region VI contains two Section 5 counties: Kings and Merced.
- Kings County: State Assembly District 30 currently contains intact Kings County as well as parts of Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties, where the district lines extend south to include Arwin, Weedpatch, Lamont, east Bakersfield, and nearby farming communities. The current census data to the existing districts show Assembly District 30 includes a

Hispanic population of 68.79% and a voting age population that includes 63.39% Hispanic.

- Kings County is part of State Senate District 16, which also includes the western portion of Fresno County to the north (including a part of the city of Fresno), a western section of Tulare County to the east and part of Kern County to the South (including a part of the city of Bakersfield). The population of current District 16 is 70.88% Hispanic and the voting age population is 66.19% Hispanic.
- Merced County is part of Assembly District 17, which includes parts of west Stanislaus County as well as parts of San Joaquin County, where the district is drawn splitting the greater Stockton metropolitan area in thirds. Census data show current Assembly District 30 includes a Hispanic population of 51.95% and a voting age population that includes 47.03% Hispanic.
- Merced County is part of State Senate District 12, which also includes a western portion of Stanislaus County to the north (including Modesto and Ceres), San Benito County and an eastern portion of Monterey County (including Salinas) to the southwest and part of the western portion of Madera County including the city of Madera. The current population of District 12 is 59.14% Hispanic and the voting age population is 53.48% Hispanic.