

From: DON ERNST [REDACTED]

Received: 4/14/11 [REDACTED]

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Subject: redis [REDACTED]

Hello. My name is Don Ernst and I was speaker #22 in San Luis Obispo. This email is submitted to add additional information to my testimony. As I stated verbally, I am a life long resident of San Luis Obispo County. I have lived and voted through 4 different gerrymandering decades. Hopefully this commission will do it better than anyone else based upon the mandated criteria.

Most people naturally want the county to stay together as a cohesive unit. Most likely, all the other adjoining counties feel the same way because they are used to the governing body of the board of supervisors for their geographical area. They also have some degree of comfort because they can get their head around that concept as the board of supervisors seems to make decisions for "their" county.

With that said, San Luis Obispo County only has 269k population and the census numbers require that San Luis Obispo County be combined with another county or portions of another county for all state and federal elective districts. The question becomes, in which direction does the commission go? North or South? By the way, East is not an option. Everyone hates the central valley representative district that bleeds into San Luis Obispo county, even if they agree with the political party. There is no community of interest on any level. There are severe geographical and mental boundaries between San Luis Obispo County and Kern County that are magnified with a lack of district wide news distribution. There is no district wide news source whatsoever. Please, what ever you do, leave the central valley representatives out of the central coast. They simply do not get the diverse agricultural , tourism, environmental, and all other related community interests. So, the question becomes, does the commission go north or south to make up the population requirements for state assembly, state senate, and congressional districts? Each of the questioned districts is covered below.

State Assembly and Senate.

These seats are covered in the same comment section because of your mandate that all assembly seats be combined into one senate district where possible. Any decision that you make will have geographical implications for the representatives because of the mileage distances between population centers. So do you go north or south? In the past, our districts sometimes went north, and sometimes south, depending on the decade.

The assembly requires a population of roughly 400k and the senate 800k. One way to look at this issue state wide is to generally identify the community interests for the 40 senate seats and then divide those senate seats into the best assembly seats that you can, understanding that in another 10 years the process will begin again. With term limits, most assembly seat winners will eventually run for their respective senate seats, so it makes sense to look at the community of interests for state senate districts on a statewide basis and then divide up those districts as best you can for assembly district purposes

To do that, you either divide San Luis Obispo county at the Cuesta Grade, or combine San Luis Obispo County with Monterey County and part of Santa Cruz County going north, or Santa Barbara going south. The best solution is most likely a hybrid. There are more similarities for SLO county going north than south, but the geographical mileage is really a problem. Going South, you must combine San Luis County with Santa Barbara County and then part of Ventura county to meet your State Senate population criteria. There is no easy answer, and the senator from the central coast will put a lot of miles on the car no matter what you decide....lol. This is a difficult call for the

commission as there is no easy answer. You may have to consider the differences in all the counties above Santa Cruz and below Ventura to make it all fit. That point of view is beyond the capabilities of the citizens of SLO County and this writer simply because statewide requirements are not easily visualized or comprehended and we do not have that information in our heads. We can only testify as to our own myopic county wide viewpoint. . Good luck to whatever you decide.

Congressional seats.

San Luis Obispo could be divided at Cuesta Grade or combined with Monterey County going north and part of Santa Cruz County or Santa Barbara County going south and part of Ventura County.

The same comments apply here as with the assembly and senate comments set forth above. Please do not consider going East or West. The central valley has nothing in common with the central coast. Keep in mind the roads. US 101 and beautiful US 1 are the only arteries going north and south. In addition, there are no term limits for congressional seats and therefore any elected state politician is always looking to run for congress. Good luck with this one too.

State Board of Equalization.

This is a puzzle, with a relatively simple solution. Coastal Zone North, Central Valley, Coastal Zone South, and Southern. Most of the population is south, so you could use the LA metropolitan area to make the Central Valley, Southerly Coastal zone and Southern Zone all fit. Very few people understand or care where these lines are drawn. Nor will it make much difference.

Thanks for your time and efforts in this endeavor. San Luis Obispo County is a wonderful place to live, and the low population numbers make it so. The political price we pay is that our population will not even support an assembly seat and requires some compromise in our elected official districts. You need to know the price is worth it.

Thanks again.

Don Ernst

