

From: **James Wright** [REDACTED]  
Date: Sun, Apr 17, 2011 at 11:22 AM  
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - Merced meeting summary  
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Commissioners,

My observations:

- Keep Stockton city whole. Lodi, Manteca, Gault (not Elk Grove) have some things in common with Stockton. If Stockton must be divided, use the Calaveras River.
- Stockton/Lathrop/Lodi need to be kept together. Being in different districts creates problems when dealing with State and Federal government officials.
- Keep San Joaquin county whole.
- Keep Merced county whole. County is VRA section 5 and has asked to opt-out.
- Keep Stanislaus County whole.
- Highway 49 corridor is a good guide for joining foothill and mountain communities into Assembly district(s) and possibly a Senate district. Sierra crest is a barrier that should be respected. Mono and Inyo counties are a better fit with San Bernardino and LA (water).
- Keep Agricultural areas together where possible.
- Broadcast media in the Valley is organized along north/South lines. Keep districts in available media regions. Foothills and mountains depend more on print media than broadcast.
- Best quote: [referring to the list of requirements in the Voters First Act] "... if you answer yes, I'm satisfied"
- Mountain communities along route 49 and east to the Sierra Crest should be kept together.
- There is a Punjabi and Sikh community around Merced.
- Weirdly shaped local districts don't help.
- High-speed rail will affect area.
- Foothills and National Parks have a tourist focus. Valley has an agricultural focus. Agri-tourism (wine tours) is a big business.

Jim Wright  
a voter from San Jose