

From: **Terry Dolph** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Apr 18, 2011 at 1:59 PM
Subject: Region VI - Comment Follow up - Central Valley Area
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear Commissioners,

I attended and spoke at the public input hearing in Merced last Saturday and wanted to thank you for a very productive hearing. I had some follow up thoughts and comments to share with you regarding the Central Valley and mountain communities.

Several speakers suggested making a mountain and foothill assembly district that would be long and include 5 counties of residents. Besides being geographically challenging and impractical it implies possible segregation issues. If you look at the geographical population demographic break down of these counties, you will notice a substantial White/Non-Hispanic population in the mountain communities. The Central Valley floor of these counties Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, and Stanislaus contain large Hispanic and minority populations.

It is my hope to see a balance and a diversity of cultures included in each assembly and senate districts. Madera County is currently divided into two senate and two assembly districts and it has a population of around 151,000. We would like to remain whole as we have an unemployment rate of 17.7% in the County and the City of Madera has a 22% unemployment rate. We have been forgotten and not served by our elected officials that have always lived outside the county. The last time a Maderan was elected to the State Legislature was 1896.

When you draw the lines for Region VI please understand that the Central Valley area has the largest number of poor people adjacent to an urban area (Fresno) in the whole United States. Isn't California the wealthiest state in the union? We need fair representation and unity in purpose to better our communities. Segregation of our communities is unacceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this most important process for the people of California. Your service is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Terry Dolph

