

From: **Jesse Herche** [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2011 at 9:08 PM
Subject: Re: San Joaquin County's State Senate, Assembly and Congressional Districts
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

It is with great sadness that I hear of your redistricting plans. Much too often districts are formed based on partisan cutting of cities in order to gain a more favorable electorate. It seems that the redistricting process has moved from simply updating districts because of growth and population changes to becoming the tool of the political party in power to maintain its hold on the state. Please prove me wrong. I fear that my letter will not be read and that you will move ahead with your policy but at the very least I will have appeased my conscious. This ought not to be a democrat or republican issue but instead it is an issue of San Joaquin County. Why Lodi could end up in the same district as Morgan Hill is beyond me. I hope you feel the same.

It seems natural that people in a political district should be included with other people of similar interests and concerns, and that city and county boundaries should be used as much as possible when establishing those political districts. It also seems natural that San Joaquin County should be a Congressional District on its own. The county should have a state Senate District and an entire state Assembly District, but not more than two such districts within the county.

San Joaquin County ended up being in two Congressional Districts, two state Senate Districts and four Assembly Districts following the 2001 redistricting. That just seems like too many political districts for a

county with so many people living here. It just seems that none of those elected officials will care enough about our needs and wants.

Keeping San Joaquin County as a Congressional District on its own would preserve the city and county boundaries. Californians from nearby communities should be included in the new San Joaquin County districts whenever possible, rather than splintering the communities and setting up remote "outposts" within far-flung districts. And district boundaries should not bypass nearby areas in favor of overreaching to gather population from distant communities. That is what happened with the 2001 redistricting and look at the mess we are in now.

So, I think it is only natural that San Joaquin County be made a Congressional District on its own; that we have one state Senate District; and that we have an entire Assembly District, but not more than two Assembly Districts in the county. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jesse Herche
Lodi CA