

From: **Bruce Auld** [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Apr 25, 2011 at 3:19 PM  
Subject: Ridgecrest (Kern County)  
To: "votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov" <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Please rest assured that your efforts on behalf of the citizens of California are greatly appreciated. Please accept as input the following:

Although population existed in the Indian Wells Valley prior to 1943, the "modern" communities in the valley came as the result of the establishing of the now Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division (NAWCWD), China Lake. Since that time, most if not all political subdivisions have been aligned with Kern County. I am a former superintendent for the Sierra Sands Unified School District (SSUSD), one such political subdivision. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) office provides required oversight of SSUSD under the provisions of the California *Education Code*. Regardless of the final recommendations of the commission, this arrangement will not change. KCSOS is located in Bakersfield. All of us are accustomed to traveling to Bakersfield regularly to attend to business. Over the past sixty years, all of those who represent (except our senators) the Indian Wells Valley, likewise have offices in Bakersfield. This allows us to conduct district business with KCSOS and work with our state elected officials and congressman in Bakersfield on the same trip. The district has frequently relied on its elected officials for assistance in critical circumstances. Our congressman is currently assisting the district on critical facilities funding issues. Both China Lake and Edwards Air Force base are located in east Kern County, and geographically, could look to better align with possibly the Lancaster area. Both, however are "married" to KCSOS in Bakersfield. The school districts that educate the children of Edward's and China Lake's workforce benefit from very specialized federal funding (impact aid, which was signed into law by President Truman). Our congressman has been an advocate for both districts in retaining our funding. In the event that the communities of eastern Kern County were aligned with either San Bernardino or Los Angeles Counties, the school districts would travel to Bakersfield for KCSOS business and travel to either Lancaster (or further ) or San Bernardino to meet

with our elected officials. Neither location represents a significant reduction in travel time when compared to Bakersfield. Travel time would be increased by the fact that KCSOS would in Bakersfield and our elected officials somewhere else.

Having personally experienced the current arrangement for some 62 years, I would recommend leaving "good enough" alone. Thanks for listening.