

28 April 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission

1130 K Street, Suite 101

Sacramento, CA 95814

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Re: San Joaquin County and its state Senate, Assembly and Congressional Districts

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Our government is based on fair and effective representation. Necessary steps to assure that fairness and effectiveness include the census every 10 years and the redrawing of political district lines afterward. But beyond the stale numbers of the census, the people of these districts must share common interests, issues and struggles. That is why it is very important that you seriously consider: 1) making San Joaquin County a Congressional District on its own; 2) the county should have an entire Assembly District within its borders and there should be no more than two Assembly Districts in the county; and 3) we should be in one state Senate District.

The 2001 redistricting process left San Joaquin County with two Congressional representatives, two state senators and four Assembly members. That is eight elected officials. None of them live in San Joaquin County and half of them do not live in counties that are adjacent to San Joaquin County. That is not fair and effective representation.

Those districts stretch to Davis and El Dorado Hills, the East Bay and Silicon Valley, the Sierra Nevada, and down to Fresno. How can politicians who do not live in San Joaquin County and live so far from us know what we want and need? What do we have in common with a UC Davis professor, a Silicon Valley computer engineer, a Mother Lode innkeeper, or a Fresno office worker? Or, more importantly, what do those people have in common with a Lodi winemaker or a Stockton asparagus grower or a teacher in Manteca?

All we want is to know that our elected officials have an idea of our problems and of our wants and needs. It would go a long way to achieve fair and effective representation if you made San Joaquin County a Congressional District on its own; gave the county an entire Assembly District, but not more than two in the country; and that the county be in a single Senate District. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Stockton, San Joaquin County