

STATEMENT to the CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager/ Engineer for public water district

I live and work in the High Desert area of California. It's roughly shown on the attached map titled "High Desert Community" bounded on the west and east by Gorman and Apple Valley-Barstow and the north and south by Ridgecrest and Littlerock-Hesperia. I believe this area should be considered a "community of interest" in your process despite crossing the boundaries of Los Angeles, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties. My input is related to the common set of water issues for the area.

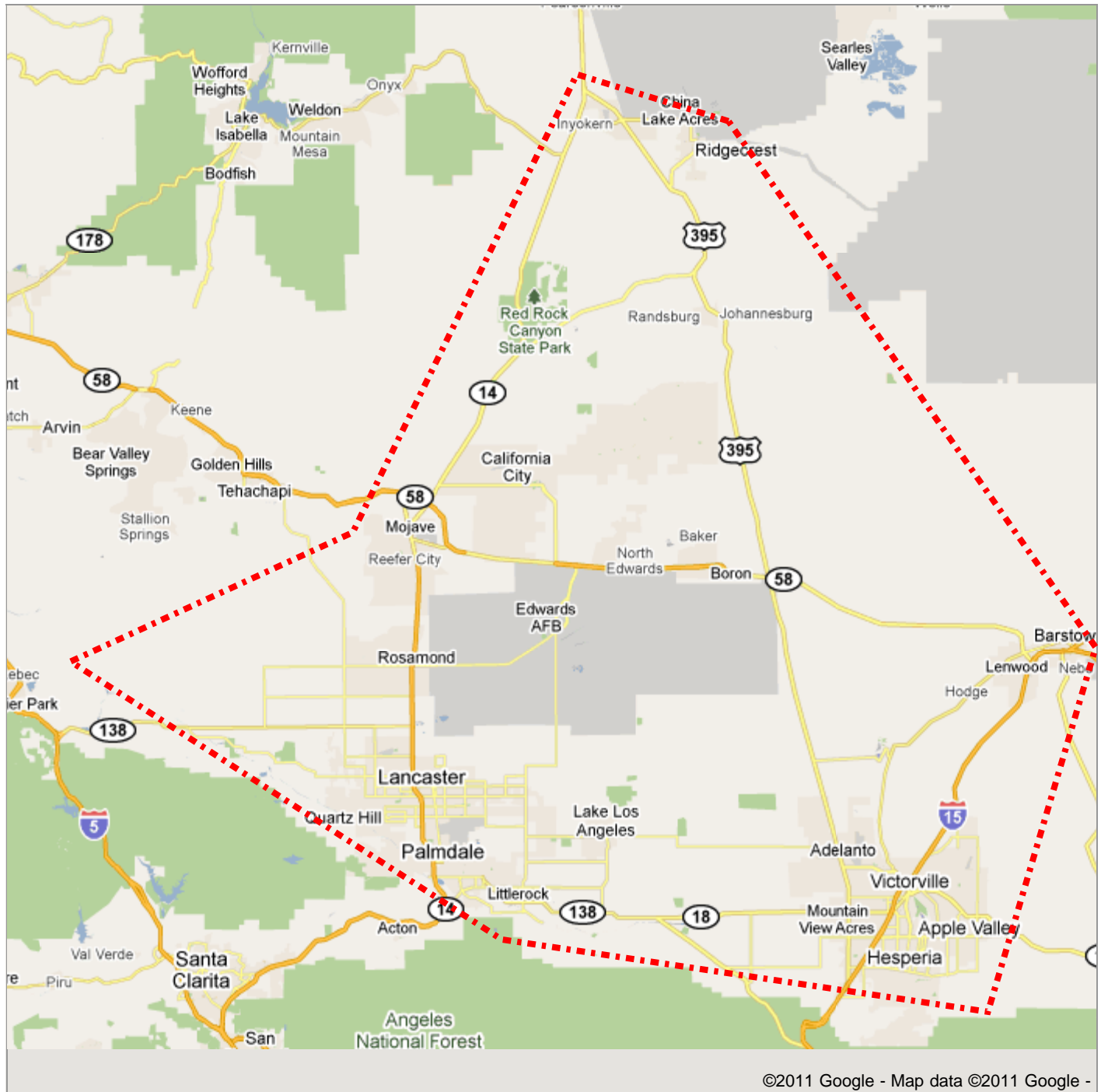
The High Desert has a unique and common climate which relates directly to the use and supply of water. It is arid with some of all four seasons including hot summers and cold winters. Water is supplied from contested groundwater basins, the California State Water Project, and limited local surface water resources for agricultural, urban, and industrial uses that are similar throughout the High Desert. Others can speak better to the agricultural uses. The urban uses are driven largely by outdoor landscaping demands and the industrial uses are tied closely to defense manufacturing. Meeting these water demands during shortages and in the future is a shared focus of the regional water management plans in the Victor and Antelope Valleys.

Representation of this community is important because of the unique climate and water resources as opposed to the remainder of the three counties. The climates in the other portions of Los Angeles, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties are very different. These climates are not arid, are temperate all year long, and have lower elevations. These differences drive different water demands and policy needs. The other county areas also involve additional water supplies that are not available to the High Desert. These include the Los Angeles Aqueduct bringing water from Owens Valley, the Central Valley Water Project, and Colorado River water. These differences call for a water policy voice and representation in Sacramento that is different than the remaining areas of all three counties.

In short, our vital water resource needs are a major factor making the High Desert its own community of interest more important than the county lines.

Keeping our community intact legislatively is thus vital to ensuring the protection of precious resources like our water. Our population mandates some sort of division, and what makes the most sense would be to create an Antelope Valley/East Kern Assembly District and combine it with a Victor Valley/Mojave Desert Assembly District to create a High Desert Senate district.

If not, we run the risk of the protection of our water becoming second priority in legislative districts beholden to far away population centers.



HIGH DESERT COMMUNITY