

RIVERSIDE OFFICE:

Riverside, CA 92502-1647



DISTRICT OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS:

Palm Desert, CA 92260-2574

SUPERVISOR JOHN J. BENOIT
FOURTH DISTRICT

May 12, 2011

Commissioner Peter Yao
California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: May 12 Palm Springs Public Input Hearing Testimony

Dear Commissioner Yao:

I write to submit my testimony, which I plan to present at your May 12 public input hearing in Palm Springs, into your written record. A Bermuda Dunes resident, I serve as Supervisor for Riverside County's Fourth District, representing the eastern two-thirds of the county.

On May 3, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution recommending that the commission keep the county as an intact entity, to the greatest extent possible, throughout the process of redrawing boundaries for Board of Equalization, state and federal legislative districts.

Over the past decade, Riverside County led the state with 41.7 percent population growth, nearly reaching 2.2 million residents. Cities and other communities of interest within our borders have a long history of working together to address regional issues. These coordinated efforts have helped improve transportation, health services and public safety programs. Preserving the boundaries of the state's fourth most populous county will provide unified Riverside County representation in the state and U.S. capitols.

As Riverside County continues to rapidly grow and urbanize, keeping its boundaries intact, to the best extent possible, will enhance our local agencies' effectiveness in seeking coordinated assistance from lawmakers.

To reiterate the Board of Supervisors' position, I have enclosed a minute order and copy of the aforementioned resolution for your records. Thank you for your important work on this commission and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. Benoit".

JOHN J. BENOIT
4th District Supervisor

JJB:das

Enclosure

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
May 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution 2011-118, Recommendations Regarding State and Federal Redistricting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board adopt Resolution 2011-118 and forward the approved resolution to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission prior to the commission's scheduled meeting on May 5, 2011 in the Norco City Council Chambers.

BACKGROUND: Under California law, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission must revise boundaries for state and federal legislative districts, and Board of Equalization districts, based on results of the decennial census. Riverside County's effectiveness in addressing issues such as transportation, public health, education and public-safety would be diminished if new boundaries fractionalize the county. Existing communities of interest within our borders have a long history of working together to address local and regional issues, especially those caused by the dramatic growth that has occurred over the past decade. Since the 2000 census, Riverside County's population has increased to nearly 2.2 million residents, almost a 42 percent increase. It is imperative that the California Citizens Redistricting Commission establish Riverside County as an intact entity to the greatest extent possible to avoid fractionalizing the county and reducing the ability to address community needs.

Raymond Smith
Raymond Smith, public information officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	n/a
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	n/a
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	n/a

SOURCE OF FUNDS: n/a	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE
BY: *Bill Luna*
County Executive Office Signature

- Policy Policy
- Consent Consent

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Buster, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: May 3, 2011
xc: EO, Commission

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: *Kecia Harper-Ihem*
Deputy

3.58

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: | Agenda Number:

Dept's Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Departmental Concurrence

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-118**
3 **A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**
4 **RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING STATE AND FEDERAL REDISTRICTING**

5 **WHEREAS**, State law requires the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to
6 revise boundaries for state and federal legislative districts, and Board of Equalization
7 districts; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Boundaries must be drawn based on criteria established in state law,
9 which requires that districts shall be geographically contiguous so that the geographic
10 integrity of any city, county, city and county, local neighborhood, or local community
11 of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes their division; and

12 **WHEREAS**, A community of interest is defined in law as a contiguous population that
13 shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single
14 district for purposes of its effective and fair representation; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Shared interests include those common to areas in which the people
16 share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar
17 work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to
18 the election process; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Establishing Riverside County as an intact entity to the greatest extent
20 possible is imperative based on the county's dramatic population growth during the
21 past decade, which surpassed the next two fastest-growing California counties
22 combined; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Riverside County's population in the past 10 years increased by nearly
24 42 percent, reaching 2.2 million residents, with continued rapid growth projected
25 during the next decade; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Coordinated efforts to address countywide transportation planning and
2 the pursuit of funding for road and highway improvements are vital in order to
3 improve quality of life and to reduce traffic congestion that creates pollution and
4 poses health risks to residents; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Coordinated efforts within Riverside County's communities of interest
6 have provided invaluable opportunities to implement programs that improve:
7 transportation corridors through the addition of commuter lanes and other resources;
8 health services through the development of a medical school at the University of
9 California, Riverside, and other programs; and public-safety programs through law-
10 enforcement task forces that target illegal narcotics operations, organized street
11 gangs and sex offenders.

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors
13 recommends that in redrawing boundaries for state and federal elective offices, the
14 California Citizens Redistricting Commission establish Riverside County as an intact
15 entity to the greatest extent possible. With this resolution, the Board of Supervisors
16 also expresses its concern that fractionalizing Riverside County would diminish local
17 agencies' effectiveness in seeking coordinated assistance from legislators; in
18 protecting access to communication relevant to the election process for, in many
19 instances, a poor, minority population; and in addressing health, transportation,
20 education and safety issues that affect the quality of life for every resident.

21 ROLL CALL:

22 Ayes: Buster, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit, and Ashley
23 Nays: None
24 Absent: None

25 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly
adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board

By: 
Deputy

Memo

Speaker # 10

- 05.12.11G

To: California Citizen Redistricting Committee
From: Ellen Swensen, Rancho Mirage, CA resident
Date: May 12, 2011
Re: Citizen Comment on "Desert Cities Community of Interest"

I am a resident of Rancho Mirage, which a desert city in Riverside County. My representative districts are currently AD64, SD37 and CD45. I respectfully submit this input:

1. I believe the Coachella Valley's desert cities (Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Thousand Palms, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, La Quinta, Indian Wells, Bermuda Dunes and Indio) comprise a strong Community of Interest ('COI') under the legal definition, and should be districted together. The "Desert Cities COI" has in common:
 - a. Economy- our shared industry is primarily tourism and its related services
 - b. Standard of Living- we are all solid-income bedroom communities
 - c. Transportation- we all share Palm Springs airport, Highway 10 and Highway 111
 - d. Media- we share the same media
 - e. Utilities- we share many of our utilities
 - f. Climate- we share unique weather extremes that create common cost and infrastructure challenges as well as common opportunities (wind, solar energy)
 - g. Geography- we are geographically contiguous and compact
2. Our present Assembly (AD64, AD80) and Senate (SD37, SD40) districts split our Desert Cities COI and actually mix some desert cities in with agriculturally-focused Imperial County. This needs to be remedied. The Desert Cities COI should **never** be combined with Imperial County's COI, which has a very different shared economy (agriculture), living standard, transportation, environmental challenges (Salton Sea, New River) and Mexican border issues.
3. My Congressional district, CD45, needs to shrink in population. I recommend keeping the Desert Cities COI intact and within CD45, and removing other, less cohesive cities to reduce the population. Please do not add Imperial County to CD45, per my comments above.

Finally, I want to add that I would like to prevent your hard work from ending up in court.

- Your proposed use of a 5% population deviation among districts is likely to be challenged, especially by groups in growing areas like Riverside County. I hope you choose to follow the law, which allows only a 1% deviation.
- The legal definition of a COI does not include race or ethnicity, so I hope you are not perceived to be favoring one racial or ethnic group over another, as this will be challenged.

If a judge has to decide the final districts, it will defeat the whole purpose of the citizen-based process that we all voted for and support! Thank you for listening and for all you are doing.

Respectfully,
Ellen Swensen

[REDACTED]
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

#11

- 05.12.11H

Memo

To: California Citizen Redistricting Committee

From: Valorie Ogburn, Palm Springs, Ca. resident

Date: May 12, 2011

RE: Citizen Comment on "Desert Cities Community of Interest".

I am a resident of Palm Springs and have lived here with my husband for 20 years. Palm Springs is part of the 80th Assembly, 37th Senate District and the 45th Congressional District. We are a small valley with many cities, but are currently divided into 2 Assembly districts. We need to go back to being one assembly district within our Coachella Valley communities, thus keeping our political districts intact. We live in an urban setting, as opposed to an agricultural setting and as such have common living styles within the desert. We would have greater access to our representatives and our legislators would be able to handle our issues with greater understanding because of our community of interest.

By law the constitution states that districts must be similar in population, this means that Riverside County could be divided at the mountains, or by putting Moreno Valley, Temecula and Riverside in a different district. However, our desert cities should remain intact. We have common utilities, a common standard of living, our geography is close and we have common economics, mainly tourism that drives our valley economy. It would be unwise to introduce race or ethnicity into the mix of drawing district lines! Districts should be made up of people who live in similar circumstances and within close geographic areas that have common needs and desires to thrive and grow.

I urge you to use common sense when drawing the map lines. We were once a valley with one assemblyman, one senator and one congressman. We do not need to be grouped with Imperial County as their interests are more agricultural and differ from the needs of our more suburban area.

Federal Supreme Court law emphasizes the fact that districts should be "compact" in that citizens that live in similar circumstances should have easy access to their representatives and not have to drive so far to reach them.

As a citizen of this community I implore you to be fair and equitable in your decision to redraw our district lines. This affects us for a very long time and we need to stand firm in making these decisions based on the constitution and keeping communities together.

Thank you for your time in considering these important map changes that will remain for the next 10 years.

Sincerely,

Val Ogburn

RALPH RAYA
MM
PALM DESERT

Palm Springs, Ca. 92262

Tony P. Tirado

• Calexico, Ca 92231 • E-Mail:

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05.12.11 I -

May 12, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

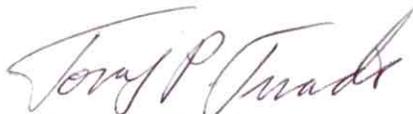
Dear Commissioners:

Currently, California's 51st Congressional District and 40th State Senate District represent southeastern San Diego and Imperial County; while California's 80th State Assembly District represents both Imperial and Riverside counties. It is my strong belief that it would be a more fair and equitable approach in representing the 51st Congressional District and 40th State Senate District if the district boundaries were to be drawn similarly to those established for the 80th State Assembly District.

The basis for my suggestion stems from the 2010 census that shows a Hispanic or Latino origin population of 77.3% and 44.7% for Imperial and Riverside counties respectively, in comparison to San Diego County's 31.3%. It is of great fundamental importance that minorities of the Desert Region receive comparable representation within the 51st Congressional and 40th State Senate Districts as those found in the 80th State Assembly District.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,


Tony P. Tirado

Biography:

Calexico Unified School District, Board of Trustees
1976-1980, Chairman, one term

Calexico City Council
1980-1994, Mayor four terms

League of California Cities
1980-1994, Chairman, Imperial County League Division - one term
1985-1994, Division Director

Imperial Valley Association of Governments
1982-1994, Member
2000-2003, Member

Imperial Valley Local Transportation
1990 - Chairman, one year
2000-2003, Member

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
1993, Committee on Transportation and Communication

Southern California Joint Powers Association
1993

Border Trade Alliance
1986-1993, Member and Director
1994-1998, Liaison for the City of Calexico

Board of Supervisors, County of Imperial
1999-2003, District 1 Supervisor
2001, Chairman

Other:

Calexico Elks Lodge #1382
1995 – present, Member
2004 – present, Trustee and Chairman

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Calexico
1956 – present, Multiple Committees

Notes:

Tony Tirado was born and raised in Calexico of immigrant parents from the state of Sinaloa, Mexico. He attended Calexico schools. He and Alicia, his wife of 46 years before her passing, raised 5 sons. Tony Tirado retired from the United States Postal Service after serving for 36 years and from the National Guard where he served for 42 years. He also served as volunteer firefighter for 13 years.