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# )

**Citizen Redistricting Committee Testimony**

Salinas, California

May 22, 2011

Good afternoon and welcome to Monterey County. My name is Steve Emerson, speaker number 1. I am both a long time Monterey County resident and a small business owner.

Today you will hear many who will advocate for keeping Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties tied together. I would like to say otherwise. Now is the time to recognize that Santa Cruz County really has much more in common with their neighbor Santa Clara County than with Monterey County.

Today I would like to urge you to seriously look at designing your maps to incorporate Monterey County with our more natural neighboring County, San Luis Obispo to the south. I say this due to a wide variety of common interests that we share like the highway 101 corridor, the Big Sur Coastline, the wine industry and, of course, our agricultural industry.

Now, I am sure that you will hear about these common interests in much more detail as the day goes on but I would like to focus on just two additional and important common themes due to our time constraints today.

Number one is the common military facilities that Monterey County shares with San Luis Obispo County. These facilities include The Naval Post Graduate School, the Defense Language Institute and several Ft. Ord based military services here in Monterey County. To the south we have Fort Hunter Leggett and Camp Roberts in San Luis Obispo County and of course, just a bit further south Vandenberg Air Force Base in northern Santa Barbara County. All of these installations require unique representation both in Sacramento and in Washington that understands the common needs of these facilities.

Quite frankly, Santa Cruz County does not share any similar military facilities nor do they have any real interest in them. These facilities are vital to the health and well being of both Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties and they deserve common representation.

The second common interest is that of water. Monterey County and San Luis Obispo County share our water resources through Lake San Antonio and Lake Nacimiento. These lakes provide everything from a basic water resource to flood control and from recreational activities to tourism. As you are all very aware, water is vital to the growth of our crops, our jobs and our future economies. Common representation is vital to keeping these resources safe and protected for both of our counties.

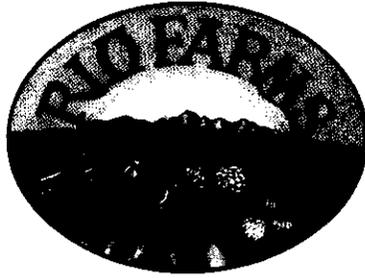
~~It is important to note that Santa Cruz County relies on State water and does not have any of the issues that Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties have with ground water. Our Counties deserve common representation that understands these unique issues.~~

For these reasons and many more I urge you all to link Monterey County and San Luis Obispo Counties together with common representation to better serve the constituents in our two counties.

Thank you for your time and service on this Commission.

Steve Emerson  
Monterey County Citizen

[REDACTED]



#2  
-05.22.11. B

**Citizens Redistricting Commission**

**1130 K Street, Suite 101**

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**May 22, 2011**

**Dear Commissioners:**

**My name is Bob Martin, General Manager of Rio Farms in King City. We farm over 6000 acres of vegetables throughout the South County area.**

**As a native of Monterey County, past President of the Monterey County Farm Bureau, current Board Member of the Grower-Shipper Assn. of Central California, Chair of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Ag Water Advisory Committee, and member of numerous other organizations in the area, I have a deep involvement in the future of our industry in this section of the Golden State.**

**I am writing to help provide you, the commission with some essential data on the economic backbone of the Central Coast, namely agriculture.**

**The Central Coast communities that are linked by Highway 101 and stretch from the Salinas Valley in Monterey County to northern Santa Barbara County all have economies that are dominated by agriculture.**

**The reality is that Northern Santa Barbara County, San Luis Obispo County and the Salinas Valley have ag based economies that have unique work forces as well as unique worker safety concerns. We also have pesticide issues, marketing concerns, water quality and regulatory concerns that are complex and require attention from**

**representatives who must learn these topics. Our heavily export based economies are unique in California and deserve a single voice in Congress and the State Legislature.**

**Wine grape growers and vintners from the Salinas Valley to the Paso Robles region and Edna Valley in San Luis Obispo to the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria Valleys in northern Santa Barbara County all share identical concerns.**

**While cities like Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz are wonderful places to visit, their tourism based economies share very few common concerns with agriculture and are simply stated, radically different.**

**To sum it up, I am speaking to advocate for a (district) that is connected by Highway 101 that stretches from the Salinas Valley in Monterey County through San Luis Obispo County to the Santa Maria Valley in northern Santa Barbara County.**

**The population of this region is approximately 700,000, which is about the size of a Congressional seat.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Martin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Bob Martin**

## **Bio for Bob Martin** **May, 2011**

### **Personal:**

- Born and raised in King City in a farming family
- Married to Rita for almost 40 years
- 3 children (and 4 Grandchildren)

### **Education:**

- Graduated from King City High School
- Attended Cal Poly SLO, Major- Crop Science

### **Business and Community:**

- General Manager for Rio Farms, King City for 30 years
- 1997 KC. Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year
- 2008 recipient Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce Ag Leadership Award
- Past President of Monterey County Farm Bureau

### **Organizations:**

- Charter member, (since 1975), and past Pres. King City Young Farmers
- King City Volunteer Fire Dept. (Retired after 15 years active)
- Past Trustee (King City Joint Union High School)
- Past member and Pres. KC High School Mustang Bench Boosters Club

### **Board Member of the following organizations:**

- Grower-Shipper Assn. of Central California
- Monterey County Farm Bureau
- Salinas River Channel Coalition
- Salinas Valley Fair Heritage Foundation
- CEO, King City Young Farmers Foundation (501 C-3)
- Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (501 C-3) Treasurer
- Hartnell College Foundation Trustee

### **Member of the following Committees:**

- Past Chair Hartnell College President's Ag Steering Comm.
- Hartnell College Food Safety Comm.
- Chair Monterey County Ag Water Advisory Comm.
- Past member Monterey County Nitrate Technical Advisory Comm.
- Past member Ag Water Discharge Waiver Ag Panel with the R.W.Q.C. Board
- California Leafy Greens Technical Advisory Comm.

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#3

Melanie Horwath

Gonzales, CA 93926

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
901 P Street, Suite 154-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commission Members:

For four generations our family has operated an agricultural business in Gonzales California which is located in the heart of the Salinas Valley. We strongly urge that Monterey County be paired with San Luis Obispo County to form a new congressional district because of our shared physical and rural social economic interests. Those interests include:

1. **WATER**—both counties share the Salinas River Basin, a 170 mile-long river that originates in the foothills 20 miles east of the City of San Luis Obispo and flows along the 101 corridor out to the Monterey Bay by Marina. The Salinas River drains 4,160 square miles of ground. Two man-made lakes, Lakes San Antonio and Nacimiento, were built by Salinas Valley growers to control flooding in the Salinas Valley and to provide valuable irrigation water for farming. The largest city on the central coast is Salinas, its' economic base is agriculture and agriculture is the biggest employer in Monterey County. Without the Salinas River Basin both counties would become economically and physically a dust bowl.

The environmental battles over water restriction in the Central Valley show the importance of water to growers, farm workers, agricultural support industry and rural communities up and down the San Joaquin Valley. Look at the unemployment rate in the San Joaquin Valley and you can see that access to water is life and death to agricultural communities and our food supply. It is imperative that our elective representatives understand the importance of the Salinas River Basin to both Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, in particular to the agricultural industry and to those residents who live and work here.

2. **AGRICULTURE**—Because of water and climate, most all of Monterey and San Luis Obispo communities are rural and agriculturally based and many are dependant the Salinas River Basin. Agriculture particularly here in California has been under assault by more and more government regulations that has driven many farmers out of business or go farm in other countries like Mexico, Chile or even China where regulations are almost non-existent and production cost are far cheaper. That foreign produce is then imported into the USA in increasing amounts. In order for this country to be able to feed itself we have to start supporting our rural-agricultural base; if we fail to do so, we will become dependent on foreign food just like we are now dependent on foreign oil. We cannot stress enough the importance of having safe food supply to our national security.

3. **SIMILAR COMMUNITIES**—because the communities along the 101 corridor are rural they each have active youth programs like 4H and FFA. If you are a high school student interested in higher education in agriculture your first choice is Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Davis or even Fresno State because of their agricultural programs. Because Cal Poly is so impacted many agricultural bound students from this area go to Cuesta Junior College in the City of San Luis hoping that their two-year degree will open the door to Cal Poly. In the last few years our local State University here at Monterey Bay has started to recognize the importance of agriculture and has geared more of its programs to fit that need for the students from Monterey County.
4. **WINE TOURISM INDUSTRY** unites both Monterey County and San Luis Obispo Counties. No doubt the wine and tourism industry has been growing in leaps and bounds adding vast amounts of revenue to both.
5. **LAKES NACIMINTO AND LAKE SAN ANTONIO TOURISM** impacts both counties because of the recreational opportunities. Paso Robles is the gateway to both lakes for folks coming from the east and south. Monterey County also owes the marina on Lake Naciminto.

In closing, the Salinas River Watershed is the lifeblood of both Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties and they share the same water source, agricultural job base, the 101 corridor, similar rural communities, types of tourism jobs, and recreational opportunities. Some would argue that because Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties share the Monterey Bay these two counties should be joined into one district. Yes Monterey County has a slice of the Monterey Bay, but its heritage, economic viability, social structure is dominantly rural and agricultural and does not rely on the Monterey Bay for its economic strength. Furthermore Santa Cruz County's interests are strikingly different than Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. Santa Cruz's emphasis is on high tech sharing that interest with Silicon Valley, and it is a support community for UCSC. That university has nothing in common with agriculture preferring to graduate activist not agronomists. Ask the once vibrant fishing industry in the Monterey Bay how well environmental activism worked for them.

Please consider combining the Monterey County with San Luis Obispo for a new agricultural based district that stresses the value of the rich water resource and rural agricultural communities that we share.

Sincerely,

Melanie Horwath

- 05.22.11.D

#5

# Citizens Redistricting Commission

FAX ( [redacted] )

Krotzer

FAX # No longer in service - disconnected/changed

Marina, CA 93933

May 21, 2011

Good Morning:

We are 27 year Monterey County homeowners & residents, with very little commerialities with Santa Cruz, Monterey County & San Luis Obispo County have many commonalities including:

## Agriculture

Military (we have the Naval Postgraduate School; Defense Language Institute; U.S. Coast Guard; National Guard; Ft Hunter Liggett & Camp Roberts) San Luis Obispo County has Vandenberg Air Force Base. Numerous military people are involved here (as well as civil service jobs) & need representation

Educational Institutions - CSU Monterey Bay & Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Many of our Salinas area students are agriculture majors who enroll at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

A long coastline from Monterey to San Luis Obispo uses a short one from Santa Cruz to Monterey. Sincerely, HAROLD & RUTH KROTZER ph (831) 601-1894 Advocates FOR combining Monterey & S.L.O. counties.

-05.22.11.E

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
901 P Street, Suite 154-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Monterey County

I represent Monterey County and my recommendation is for the district to include Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties and Santa Maria. I also urge you to keep all of Monterey County in one district. That would bring more continuity to our community as a whole.

From a geographic perspective, we share the common coastline of highway 101, which is much more commonly traveled than highway 1. We also share the Big Sur coastline of California.

From a cultural perspective, we have similar identities, demographics and interests. From wineries to whale watching, from art festivals to farmers markets, from historical buildings to hiking trails, we have a wide range of similarities. The common interests, cultures, and lifestyle serve the growing demographics of the aging population. Both of these community of residents enjoy superior retirement living.

On the other hand, we have nothing in common with Santa Cruz County. From a geographic and community of interest perspective, I urge you to consider making Monterey, San Luis Obispo counties and Santa Maria a coastal community of interest. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Karen Reissman speaker #6*

Karen Reissman

Monterey, CA

SPEAKER  
NO

7

To THE COMMISSION  
FROM JOHN J. HANSON.

MAY 22: 2011

-05.22.11.F

CARMEL CA 93923.

SUBJECT CITIZEN'S REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

DEAR COMMISSIONERS,

AS A HOME

OWNER IN CARMEL VALLEY I REPRESENT  
MYSELF AND MY FAMILY BUT ALSO SOME  
OF THE STUDENTS AT CSUMB WHO ARE  
AT THIS PRESENT TIME ARE FINDING IT  
VERY HARD TO GET A JOB OVER 40% OF  
STUDENTS LEAVE COLLEGE WITHOUT A JOB.

THE REPUBLICAN STUDENTS AND MYSELF  
BELIEVE THAT IN THE REDISTRICTING OF  
THIS AREA MONTREY COUNTY SHOULD BE

placed with our Luis county, for  
the following reasons.

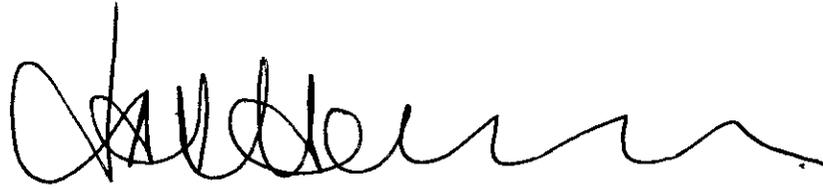
- 1 Both countries have Agriculture and Tourism as their biggest industries both from GDP and employment.
- 2 They share the same coastline Roads, Railways and should have a common strategy.
- 3 WATER is a major problem for Agriculture and must be addressed formally by the Agricultural Industry. using these 2 counts together would give more power.
- 4

finally, students need jobs and need an outstanding education to get one.

Santa Cruz and the North are much more expensive than the South.

Thank you for listening and  
seeing my submission.

John J Harrison.



22:05:2011.

14:00 HOURS.



- Good Afternoon,

- My name is Ben Strickland, and I'm a Veteran of the United States Navy. I live in Carmel Valley, and I attend Monterey Peninsula College. Even with the GI Bill and part time jobs in security and tutoring, it is difficult to ~~live with~~ <sup>afford</sup> the proper essentials of food, gas, rent, as well as other bills.

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- By ~~connecting~~ the Monterey County and San Luis Obispo County districts, it will be easier for college students to ~~complete their education while~~ pay cost of living expenses while completing their education. The cost of living in San Luis Obispo County is cheaper than in Santa Cruz County. There are more job opportunities in San Luis Obispo county in agriculture and vineyards, which is a similarity with Monterey County, and since there are developing communities in San Luis Obispo County, there are more job opportunities in Construction.

- Additionally, Monterey County and San Luis Obispo County can be considered a community of interest. They are geographically connected by the Salinas River, Highways 1 and 101, the Central coast, and the central valleys. Both counties are tied by tourism, business, and infrastructure. By combining Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties, the Central coast will become more dynamic, diverse, and prosperous, and students will have a better chance of graduating and contributing to the work force.

- Thank You. B. Strickland BENJAMIN STRICKLAND

My name is Phillip G. Tabera and I am a Trustee with the Salinas Union High School District Board of Trustees and have served this community for the past 11 years as an elected official. I am also the President of the Tri County Association of Latino/a Elected Officials (Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties) which represents the interests of well over 75 school board members, city council members and mayors, county supervisors and numerous other appointed commissioners in the tri county area of Central California.

I urge the commission members to take into strong consideration the rather unique areas of the central coast region to preserve our emerging minority community of interest as it relates to our direct ties to the agricultural and tourism industries which provides employment to thousands of Latino/as in the work force, our interstate corridors that are so crucial in tying our communities together to support local industry (Hwy 101 and the internationally known Hwy 1), our state of the art hospitals and health clinics which seek to serve our numerous community members majority and minority alike, our youth and adults sports leagues which seek to provide alternative outlets in the community many of which are geared towards the sport of soccer, our internationally known parks such as Point Lobos, Big Sur, Monterey Bay Sanctuary and Santa Cruz, regional civic organizations such as TCALEO, LULAC, our rather unique and extremely successful educational programs such as AVID, Puente and Migrant Education and English Language Development Programming and **MOST Importantly** our unique differences in comparison to other southern coastal communities.

Our Latino/a populations living on the central coast have skyrocketed over the last ten years. The cities of King City, Greenfield, Gonzales, Soledad, Salinas, Castroville, Marina, Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Hollister, and San Juan Bautista are where most of the Latino/a growth have taken place. The Latino/a populations in these cities have skyrocketed since the last census. In Monterey County alone, Latinos/as make up the majority minority population. In other words, these cities have a growing and ever vibrant Latino/a population. **This trend will definitely continue to increase over the next 10 years.**

The commission is charged with drawing districts that will last for 10 years, if you take in account all of the Latino children who were in the 2010 census between the ages of 8 and 18 years of age; over the next ten years the Latino/a population will be well above the voting age population of these cities. The commission needs to consider this growth as the basis to form assembly, senate and congressional lines.

If Latino/a communities are split there is a potential side effect that will most likely cause a discriminatory impact on Latino's voting strength in our area. This commission needs to consider our voting rights to draw the lines and keep our communities of interest intact.

**We strongly urge the Commission to not link our area with San Luis Obispo County.** Our communities do not have anything in common with SLO. We do not travel into SLO to use services and no community of interest elements exist between our area and San Luis Obispo. Please do not place our area together with San Luis Obispo.

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#14

May 22, 2011

**California Redistricting Commission**

**Dear Commissioners,**

First, I want to welcome and thank you for this opportunity in give you my input and recommendations in order to keep our counties, cities and specially our communities together..

My name is Antonio Rivas. I'm Watsonville resident which is part of the Santa Cruz County and lived for more than 28 years and my city which is the home of the Strawberry Festival.

Some information about myself, I'm the former Mayor of the City of Watsonville and served 8 years in the City Council.

I served 7 years in the Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission and I was part the Metro Board of the Directors. I served as President and Vice President of the California League of Cities, Monterey Division (Santa Cruz County, San Benito County and Monterey County). I' part the Pajaro Valley unified School District Bond Committee. Presently I'm a Secondary Public School Educator for 34 years and continue to be actively involved in Boards and Commission. I'm married for 42 years and have 3 grown children.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS, SOCIAL and ECONOMIC STATUS**

Our City of Watsonville is located in Santa Cruz County (Please see the map (Attachment A))

Our City has a lot of history and was one the main arteries of transporting goods throughout the United States which was the railroad. This part of history is in Washington D.C., Smithsonian Museum; the exhibition is "America in the Move".

Our City of Watsonville is situated in the heart of the Monterey Bay area in the lush of Pajaro Valley which lies 95 miles from San Francisco and now has a population of 51, 192 and growing. Is an agricultural community and Pajaro Valley is one the world's largest agricultural centers. It is famous today for its strawberries, apples and cut flowers.

One of our main processing companies is the Martinelli,s Sparkling Apple Cider.

At the same, various light manufacturing firms have expanded Watsonville economic base to include electronics, high tech marine supplies and construction, such as Applied Motion Products, CSE Group, West Marine, Fox Racing Shox, Annieglass, Granite Construction and Granite Rock. Also, we have major stores like TARGET, HOME DEPOT, SAFEWAY, MI PUEBLO, STARBUCKS(4)

The city is the final stages in working with the business community towards the development of the MANABE-OW business park and is estimated to create an additional 2000 jobs...

It is very important to conveyed to you that our ethnic diversity (Latinos, Filipinos, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Croatians, Native Americans). Over 75 percent of our population is Latino and Spanish Speakers and over 35 percent is under 19 years of age along with a high percent of senior citizens

The economic conditions in Watsonville are heavily influenced by agriculture and the cost of housing in Santa Cruz County is ranked as one the most expensive places to live in the United States when housing costs is compared to the median income. Watsonville median household income is 25% less the County average. One the major reasons for this situation relates to the high number of farm workers and Migrant Farm workers who live in our city.

The average unemployment due to the recessionary impacts increased over 24 %.

Our City of Watsonville population is increasing every year as and in past ten years increased over 13 %.

## ***COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER***

Watsonville community as part of Santa Cruz County and share many interests and similarities with Monterey and San Benito Counties and the residents of our TRI-COUNTY communities can be best served by creating a NEW STATE SENATE DISTRICT which is the most logical and appropriate configuration for our unique geographic region.

**The following are some similarities and interests within the TRI-County communities:**

Agricultural Companies

Concerns about our Common Economic needs

Concerns about the health and safety of our communities

Work together in dealing with Transportation needs (Metro and the Rail Line)

We share our Health Care Facilities, Hospitals, and Community Clinics

We share our resources with other Police Departments and Fire Departments

In education our students migrate to the local School Districts and have a high percentage of English Language Learners and Migrant Farm worker students in:

Pajaro Valley Unified School District  
Santa Cruz Schools  
Salinas School Districts  
San Benito Schools

Santa Cruz County and Monterey County Superintendents work together and sharing their resources and programs

*Post- Secondary Education:*

Tri County students attend CS, Monterey and UC, Santa Cruz Universities.

Tri- County students attend our local Community Colleges (Cabrillo College, Hartnell College, Monterey Peninsula College and Gavilan College)

The Tri County have same ethnic diversity, cultures and languages

Share the news and the local media

Share our Local events like; Strawberry Festival, Artichoke Festival, Begonia Festival, Garlic Festival, Cinco de Mayo Celebrations, Santa Cruz Boardwalk events and others...

**TCLEO(Tri-County Latino Elected Organization)**

**the mission of this organization: is a structure of collaborative, of elected, appointed and former governmental officials to implement policies to improve the quality of life of the Central Coast. Representaives are from City Council Members, County Supervisors, Community College Boards and School District Boards from Santa Cruz, Monterey and Sana Benito Counties.**

In the last 10 years, our community **HARDLY** received any support, assistance and resources from our State Senate 15<sup>th</sup> District.

With that in mind, it is my strong recommendation that **A NEW STATE SENATE DISTRICT BE CREATED**, so we can have representation for **MONTEREY COUNTY, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND SAN BENITO COUNTY**. This New District will be the same boundaries as the Congressional 17<sup>th</sup> District that is represented by Sam Farr (Attachment B)

This **NEW STATE SENATE DISTRICT** will be able to be well represented for the next 10 years because our communities and cities will be able to voice their needs and concerns along with our present 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> State Assembly Members and our Congressional Representative....

Again, I thank you for this opportunity and take care,

Antonio Rivas

[REDACTED]  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
[REDACTED]

CONGRESSMAN **SAM FARR** REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 17TH DISTRICT



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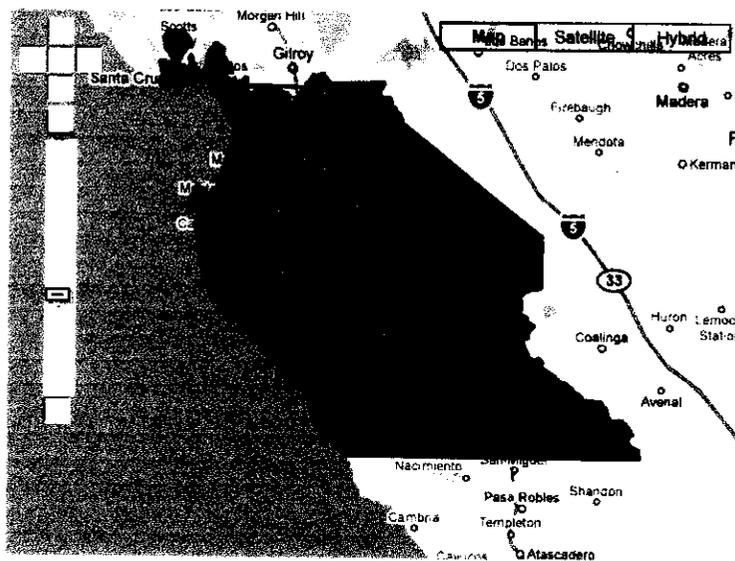
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**HOW CAN I HELP YOU?**



California's 17th District



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**SEARCH TOOLS**

SEARCH MY SITE



SEARCH BILL NUMBER

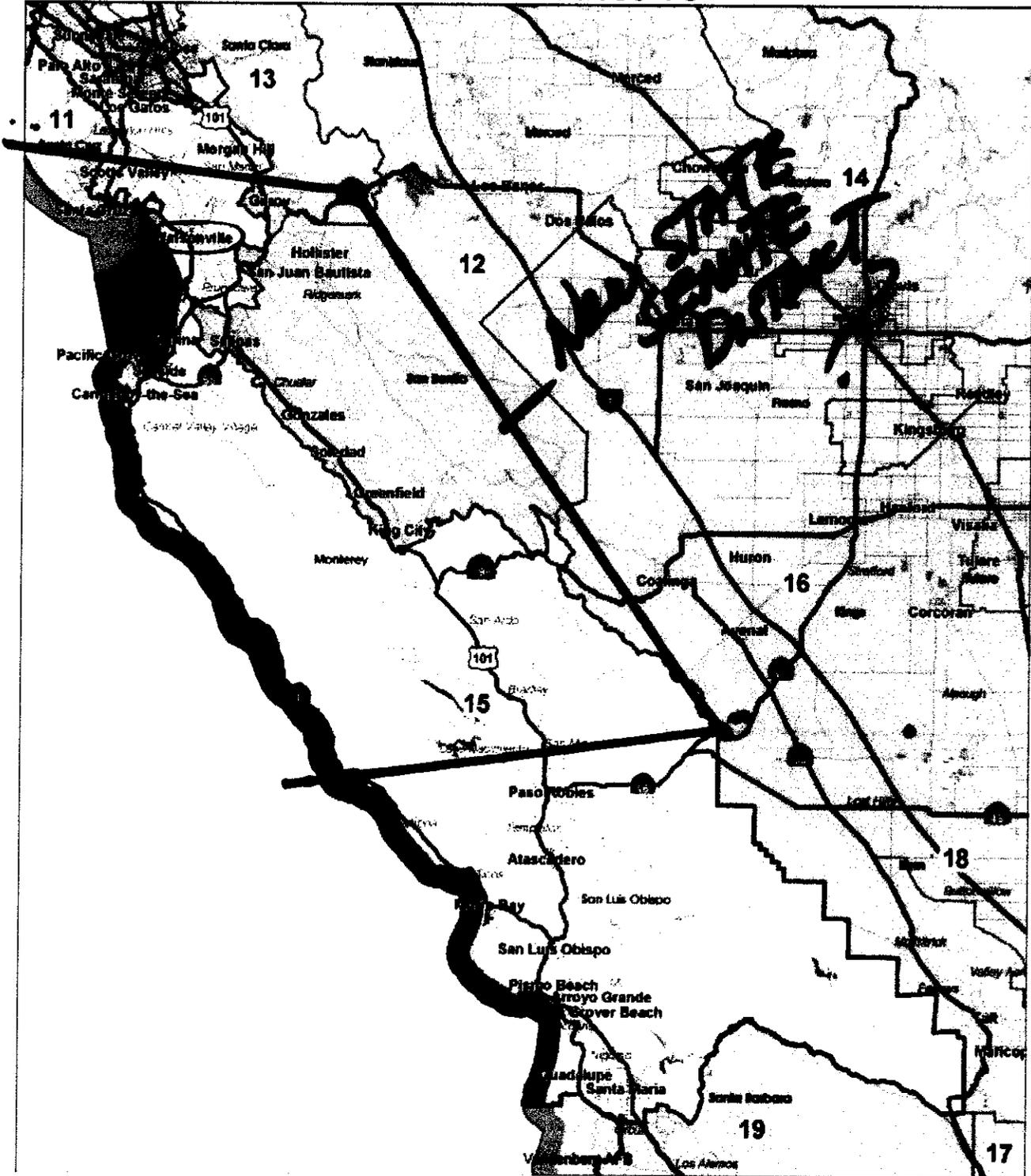
SEARCH WORD/PHRASE

**QUICK LINKS**



*Attachment A*

# Senate District 15



*ATTACHMENT B*  
7

- 05.22.11. J

#21

## Andrew Coile's Senate District 15 proposal

Andrew Coile

Marina, CA 93933

May 21, 2011

This report is about a proposed revision to Senate District 15.

The current Senate District 15 boundaries go all the way from Santa Clara County to Santa Barbara County. The current district is about 210 miles long from end-to-end. This gerrymandered district is not in the best interests of the voters. Just to attend a debate (of which there were alarmingly few in the most recent Special Election), voters could conceivably have to drive three hours each way.

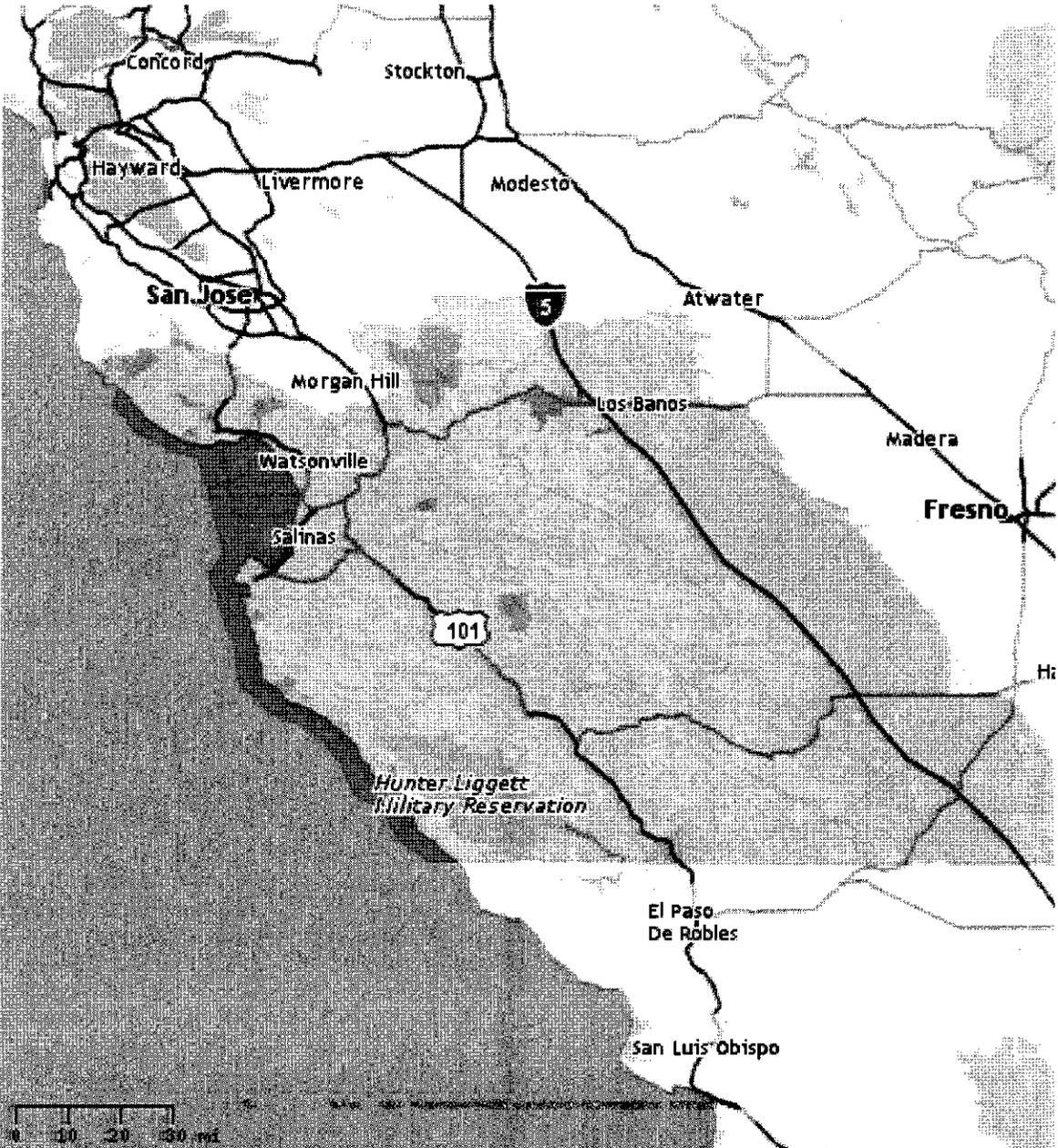
My proposal for a revised Senate District 15 incorporates Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties as the core, with some of the agricultural parts of southern Santa Clara County, and some of the agricultural regions to the east. It is geographically more compact, and shares common interests.

Part of the problem with the current gerrymandered SD15 is that it dilutes the impact for representation for this region. Prior to the current district boundaries, there were two districts that contained the Central Coast, so areas of concern had two advocates for our needs; now, there's only one, for this district that runs hundreds of miles along the coast. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and surrounding coastline are vital for the hospitality and tourism industries in our area, but their protection is being sacrificed by a gerrymandered district. Stopping SD15 at the Monterey/San Luis Obispo county line is an appropriate demarcation between the needs and responsibilities of the two regions.

Another area that requires advocacy, especially in these tough budget times, is Higher Education. It's rare for a district to have more than one institution of higher education; the current SD15 has three: UC Santa Cruz, CSU Monterey Bay, and CalPoly San Luis Obispo. By ending the proposed SD15 at the Monterey/San Luis Obispo county line, CalPoly SLO would be in the senate district to the south, and have its own separate advocate for Higher Ed. Also, the needs of CalPoly SLO, with an enrollment of almost 20,000 Full-Time Equivalent students, are very different from the needs of CSU Monterey Bay (4,600 FTE) and UCSC (16,000 FTE).

CSU Monterey Bay has, as its mission, educating the historically underrepresented students in the tri-county area of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties (see <http://about.csUMB.edu/vision-statement>). There is already a commonality of interest in education served by the proposed revision to this district.

The primary economic drivers to this area are Agricultural, Hospitality/Tourism, and Education. The areas in the proposed revision to SD15 share this focus.



**Redistricting Data: My Senate District 15**

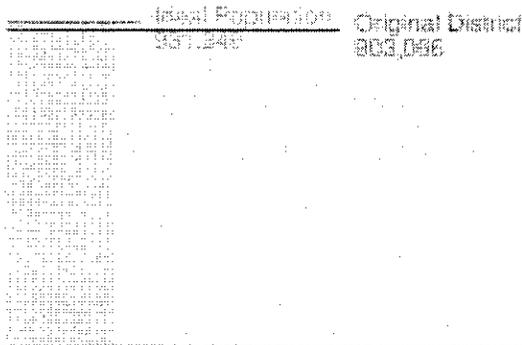
The proposed new district matches the desired population total to within a tenth of a percent.

Because the new district encompasses more of the rural agricultural areas, there is a population shift towards a higher percentage of Latino voters, but the state's overall demographics are also shifting towards a higher percentage of Latino voters, and districting lines should not be drawn to favor or oppose any ethnic group.

**Population**

Total Population: 930,393  
 -0.10% variance from ideal population

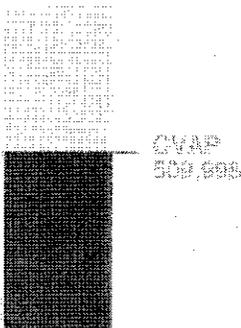
Universe: Total Population  
 Datasource: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census  
 Data Year: 2010  
 Data Level: Census Block



<b>Total Population</b>	930,393
<b>Ideal</b>	931,349
<b>Variance</b>	-0.10%
<b>Original District</b>	903,066

**Citizen Voting Age Population**

Universe: Total Population  
 Datasource: Statewide Database at the University of California Berkeley  
 Data Year: 2010  
 Data Level: Census Block



	My District 15	Original District
<b>Citizen Voting Age Population</b>	509,998	577,077

**Ethnicity / Race**

Universe: Total Population  
 Datasource: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census

50.76% Hispanic or Latino

39.58% White alone

2.16% Black or African American alone

4.76% Asian

0.57% Some Other Race

2.18% Two or More Races

Data Year: 2010

Data Level: Census Block

Original District = Blue line

	My District 15	Original District
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	50.76% 472,277	30.85% 278,552
<b>White alone</b>	39.58% 368,267	55.37% 499,996
<b>Black or African American alone</b>	2.16% 20,065	1.66% 15,024
<b>Asian</b>	4.76% 44,267	8.92% 80,536
<b>Some Other Race</b>	0.57% 5,274	0.59% 5,292
<b>Two or More Races</b>	2.18% 20,243	2.62% 23,666

- 05.22.11.K

#22

Salinas, CA, 5/22/11

Good afternoon, Commissioners, and thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

My name is Joshua Ezekiel, and I've been a teacher in California since 1984. From 1985 until 1991, I lived in Watsonville, which is in Santa Cruz County, and worked in Las Lomas, which is in Monterey County. Since then, I have lived and taught here in Salinas.

As a Spanish-speaking teacher in an agricultural region, I have had the opportunity to work with many parents employed in the fields. These families depend on a particularly coastal form of agriculture typified by the use of local water to grow as many as three crops per year in a given field. This form of agriculture is practiced in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, but not, I believe, in Merced County, where I have never seen a strawberry or lettuce plant in a field.

In my professional growth I have enjoyed some of the many opportunities available here on the Central Coast, including classes, from Cabrillo College and UCSC in Santa Cruz County, and SJSU classes delivered here in Monterey County. I have used the library at CSUMB. My daughter studies at Hartnell College. I have never gone to Merced County for a class.

I work with a number of teachers who live in Santa Cruz County. I travel there frequently, to visit my sister or shop. I also shop on the Monterey Peninsula. Supposedly, I share more of a community of interest with Merced and Modesto, where I have no friends or relatives, and never shop.

SLO SB

Please consider our true communities of interest when you form our Senate District, and nest our senate district over the current two assembly districts in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties.

Thank you.

-05.22.11.L

Subject: Public Comment: A few things San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties have in common.

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2011

From: Jennifer L. Bagley

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Hollister, CA 95023

[REDACTED]

#24

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission,

Other people will be better able to explain the historical, agricultural, economic, and social reasons why San Benito should be in the same districts as Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties - so I'm going to give you the personal perspective of a stay at home mom who was raised in one of the counties, lives in a second, and whose husband commutes to the third.

A year ago I never would have guessed how much all three counties do have in common, but now that my life encompasses all three, many of the commonalities are inescapable.

We share sports - our schools all compete within the Central Coast Section of the California Interscholastic Federation - a league which extends from San Francisco to King City, west of the Diablo Mountains. More specifically, San Benito Balers compete within the Tri-County Athletic League against the Gilroy Mustangs and the Salinas Cowboys.

We share economy - most San Benito residents are commuters who work in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara Counties. That's actually a large part of why my husband and I chose Hollister - it was an easy commute to his job in Monterey, any future jobs in Silicon Valley, and my family in Aptos. Meanwhile, when we go shopping - we don't go to Los Banos (do they even have shopping?), but to Gilroy, Salinas, and Santa Cruz.

We share school districts - The San Juan/Aromas School district includes San Juan Bautista, in San Benito County, and Aromas - a rural area that sprawls across the intersection of San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz Counties. More importantly to me, my children will be able to attend the Gavilan Early College Education Academy, located at Gavilan Community College, in Gilroy because the Gavilan Joint Community College District encompasses both Southern Santa Clara County and most of San Benito County. Furthermore, I'll be able to vote on representatives to the College Board to help ensure my kids get the High School and Community College Education I think they deserve.

We even share Charities - My sister volunteers for an organization called Jacob's Heart - a cancer support group that helps families from Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties.

San Benito County may be smaller than Monterey and Santa Cruz, but because our interests are so entwined with theirs, we never feel as if we are not represented. This is

not so when it comes to our neighbors to the East – our current Senate District cares so little about us that when politicians run for office they don't even bother to stop by.

That, more than any other reason, is why I am here today. It is frustrating beyond belief to discover that your State Senator doesn't care about the county you live in because the numbers aren't there, but are over in an area that you don't have anything in common with. That is not how a Representative Government is supposed to work.

So I urge you to consider placing San Benito County in whatever district you draw that also contains Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, because when people around here proudly say they live in "The 831" or on "The Central Coast," that's what they're talking about.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer L. Bagley

**Additional Resources:**

<http://www.cifccs.org/index,%20homepage.html#>

<http://www.cifccs.org/Directory/Website%20directory.pdf>

<http://jacobsheart.org/about-2/about-jacobs-heart>

<http://www.asjUSD.k12.ca.us/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area\\_code\\_831](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area_code_831)

[www.gavilan.edu/history.html](http://www.gavilan.edu/history.html)

-05.22.11 M

#26

**Remarks to the California Redistricting Commission**

**From: Herb Aarons 12380 Saddle Road, Carmel Valley, CA 93924**

I am a resident of Monterey County. I was trained as a geographer and worked for 27 years as a banker running a development bank which had offices in Salinas, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

The 15<sup>th</sup> should be the North Central Coast including Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito and southern Santa Clara. San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara create a compact, separate Senate District. The 15th has a clear Western edge—the Pacific and an Eastern edge defined by coastal mountains and which creates a watershed separate from San Joaquin Valley counties.

The new 15<sup>th</sup> should restore its roots to the Monterey Bay—the three counties are united by history and their economies which are dominated by farming and tourism. My attached map shows a compact district that respects county boundaries and does not separate the large, Latino population centers in Salinas, Watsonville, Hollister and the cities of the Salinas valley. These are historical market towns as are the cities of the Salinas valley. The Salinas Valley and Southern Santa Cruz share a community of interest in the agricultural market towns of Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Martin.

The cities of the Monterey Bay (Monterey, Seaside, Carmel, Aptos, Capitola, Santa Cruz) have always been jurisdictionally connected their respective counties. The district as outlined would be within 1% of the ideal according to the data. The question becomes where to best align “communities of interest” to the central core unit and impeaching as little as possible on the San Jose urban space.

Logically, the rural and urban tracts around Gilroy, San Martin and Morgan Hill closely border the existing boundaries of the three counties. They are similar demographics to Watsonville, Salinas and Hollister and have historical roots to this district. The 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly district already includes Morgan Hill.

*The key advantages of this district are as follows:*

- Jurisdictional enclosure.
- Compactness
- Non diminishment for minority voters.
- Nesting of logical Assembly districts.
- Natural edge boundaries of Pacific Ocean
- Respects current county jurisdiction for economic communities of interest.

The current Senate 15<sup>th</sup> was created specifically to disenfranchise voters who were thought to be sympathetic with a legislator who was politically “out of favor” and had nothing to do creating representative government.

Sincerely;

Herb Aarons

# REDRAW CA

Comment on CA

#126

My Account / Contact / About

## My Areas: 19th Senate District Zoom to

19th Senat

Go

Find your district

Show other boundaries

Next steps

Map thematic data

Map points of interest

Edit area

Start drawing your community of interest by adding Census Blocks to it. Click on "Add" to select a method of including blocks to the area.

As you adjust the area on the map, the data in the charts below will automatically update.

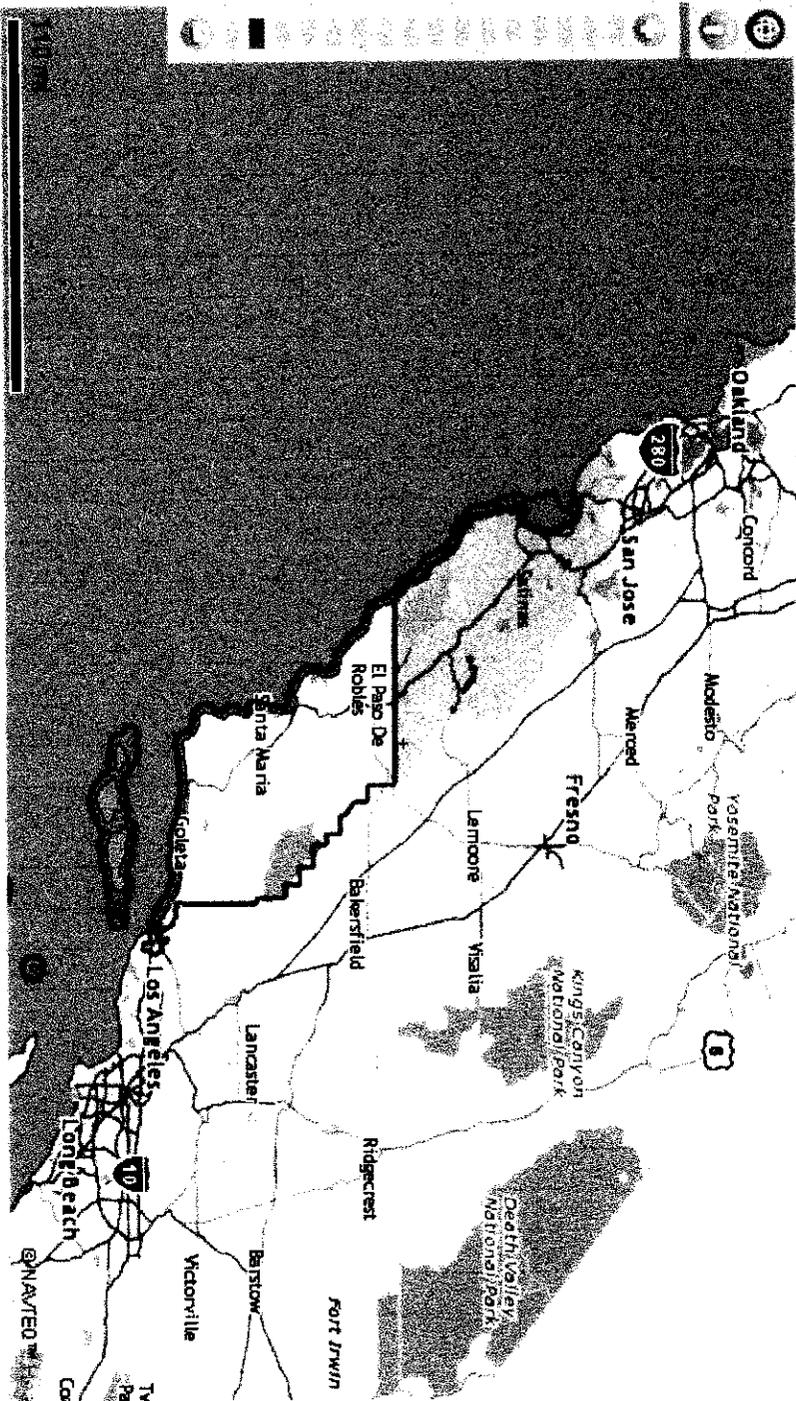
Start Over

Save

Pan

Add

Remove



### My COI Redistricting Data

This data panel presents key redistricting data calculated for the district or area you've selected above.

#### Population

Does your district meet the "equal population" requirement?

Total Population: 869,720

#### Citizen Voting Age Population

Determine if your district falls under the protection of the federal Voting Rights Act.

#### Ethnicity Race

46.32% Hispanic or Latino

42.82% White alone

1.87% Black or African American alone

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Show all downloads...

Comment on CA

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### State of California

Map thematic data ▶

Map points of interest ▶

Edit map ▶

Start re-drawing your district by adding or removing Census Blocks. Click on "Add" or "Remove" to select a method of adjusting the boundaries/blocks.

Edit additional districts on the same map by clicking on "Add New". Transfer your work to a Mapitude-enabled computer by clicking on "Download Equivalency File".

My Senate District 15

Add New

Start Over

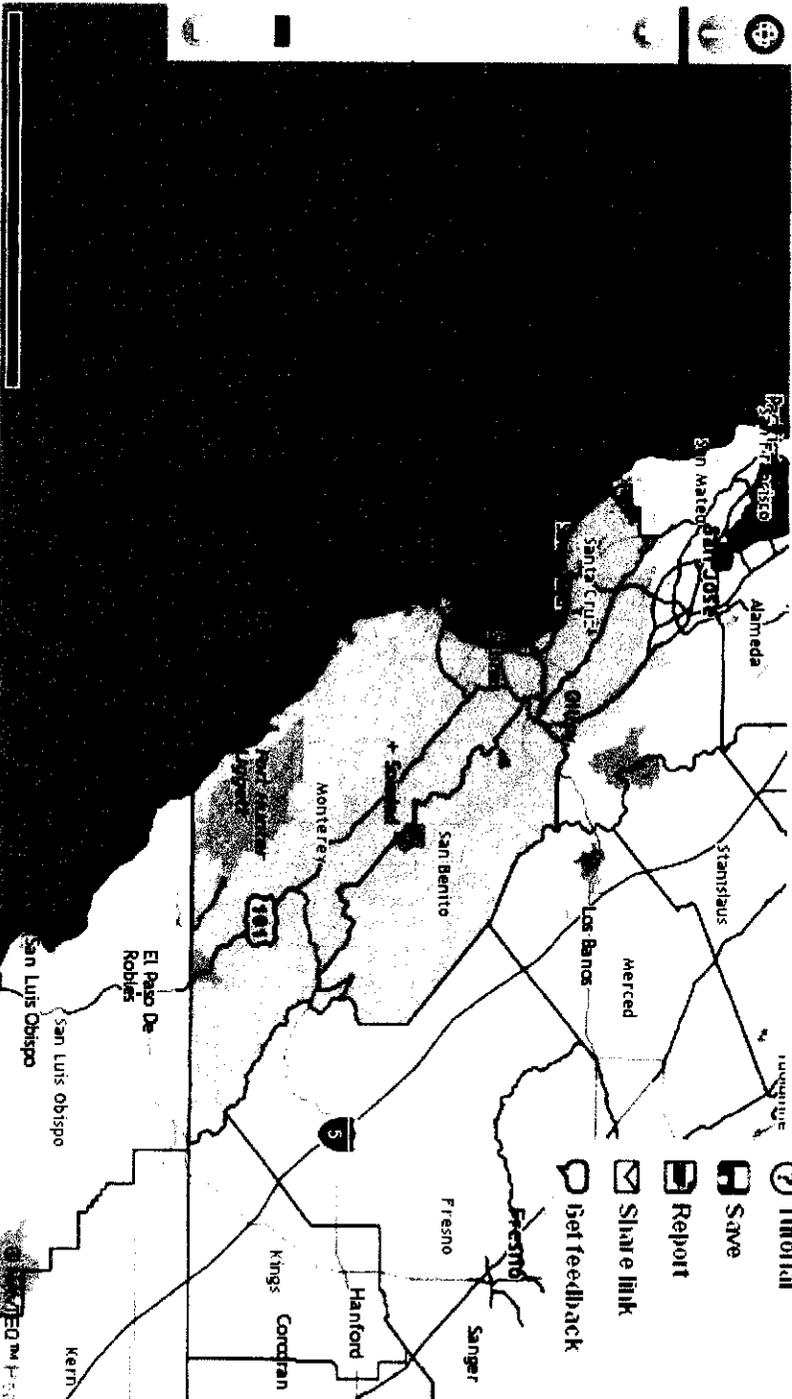
Download Equivalency File

Save Boundaries

Pan

Add

Remove



### My Senate District 15 Redistricting Data

This data panel presents key redistricting data calculated for the district or area you've selected above.

#### Population

Does your district meet the "equal population" requirement?

Total Population: 942,448

1.19% variance from ideal population

#### Citizen Voting Age Population

Determine if your district falls under the protection of the federal Voting Rights Act.

#### Ethnicity Race

42.79% Hispanic or Latino

44.67% White alone

8.74% Black or African American alone

#26

- 05.22.11.N

#30

May 22, 2011

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Michal Query. I live in Hollister, which is in San Benito County. I sincerely appreciate you giving me this opportunity to be heard. I retired from teaching school at the primary level just last year after 36 years. The County Offices of Education in San Benito County, Santa Cruz County, and Monterey County have often worked together providing classes and training for all the teachers in those three counties. This is very advantageous for teachers because the largest cities in those three counties, which employ most of the teachers, are in very close proximity making travel-time after school, on weekends, and in the summers very short. One special needs student in my district travels everyday to the Bay School in Monterey County as have other special needs students in the past. Educationally, we are referred to as the tri-county area. Many of our school district employees travel from Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties because of the short distance. The Santa Clara County Office of Education has been issuing the pay checks for our employees for over 10 years.

Our School District watches closely what is being done and what is happening in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties because of the similar demographics which we serve, because of similar economies, and similar growth. Even though our eastern border touches two other counties, most of the people who live in San Benito County live in Hollister which is nearest the cities of Salinas, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. Hollister is near no cities in either Merced or Fresno Counties, therefore our Community of Interest could never lie there.

Again, I sincerely appreciate you listening to me and also sincerely hope you carefully consider what I have said.

Thank you.

#32

-05.22.11.0

Dean Callender - fourth generation Monterey County resident, on both sides of my family. I am the Vice President of the Agricultural Personnel Management Association, a state wide agriculture trade association focusing on employee related issues. I have been a board member of the Employment Advisory Council of Monterey County for the last 10 years. The EAC is the industry arm of the Employment Development Department. These two positions have given me the bulk of my perspective on the best way to redistrict Monterey County.

Four areas tie Monterey, San Luis Obispo and the Santa Maria area of Santa Barbara County. Agriculture, Climate, Water and HWY 101.

Agriculture is the primary industry in Monterey County and it employs both directly and indirectly over 100,000 people in the three county areas that I think should be in the district. Agriculture in this proposed district is very similar. The primary crops are vegetables, they are grown in very large quantity row style, and they are also irrigated, harvested and cooled in much the same way throughout this region by a very similar labor force. After vegetables, another very large crop is wine grapes. In this region many of the vineyards are very large and most of harvesting is mechanized. All of this is very different from the bulk of the agriculture practices in Santa Cruz County.

The main reason that vegetable and wine grapes grow so well in this district is the unique mild climate that we share. The cool ocean air from the West keeps us from getting too hot, and produces the perfect amount of cloud cover required to grow our primary crops to the peak of perfection. This is why most of the leafy green fresh vegetables in the United States are grown in this district.

Water is the life blood of Monterey County, and our agriculture industry. Unlike most of the state of California, we do not count on the Central Valley Water Project for any of our water. Our water comes from the Salinas River. San Antonio and Nacimiento lakes keep the Salinas River flowing year round. San Antonio Dam, which like Nacimiento, was built by the

Salinas Valley Farmers many decades ago, is located in San Luis Obispo County.

HWY 101 is the artery that keeps the agriculture industry and this area moving. This HWY runs through all of the areas I have mentioned, and is the primary method of transportation in each.

We want a representative to understand and represent all of these very important shared interests in this district.

- 05.22.11. P

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
901 P Street, Suite 154-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Monterey County

My name is Diana V. Rams. I reside in Monterey County and I would like to present several common interests we have with Monterey Counties, San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria. The direct access of Highway 101 combining the counties, will help create new jobs due to the tourism and military families. Due to the recession we live in today, we desperately need to raise our economic growth in our communities. Every parent wants the best for their family. Ag curriculum in schools, better quality of water and affordable housing that can hold its property value.

My husband proudly served his country in the navy. As a military veteran that deserves the best medical help from the veteran's hospital, he and 51,984 men and women fought for our freedom. Due to the high military retirees, we deserve the comforts of low crime and a safe environment, which the counties have provided. We also enjoy a majestic tranquility and beauty that Big Sur and the Monterey Peninsula bring.

Sincerely,

  
Diana V. Rams

Speaker # 33

Monterey, CA

-05.22.11.Q

Joe Nixon  
Member, Bonny Doon School Board  
2003 — 2007

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Fax (please call first):

Email

California Citizens  
Restricting Commission

May 22, 2011

To whom it may concern:

The high-tech industry in Silicon Valley, where I was the Republican nominee for the 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional seat in 2002, has become very volatile and possibly could move very quickly out of California or out of this country if taxes on it are raised. There are already many rumors of the largest companies in Silicon Valley threatening to leave over that kind of issue.

In contrast, agriculture has become relatively more stable and cannot be moved out of this state or nation. We must give it maximal representation at all levels of government, so Monterey County should be joined with other agricultural areas to determine electoral districts at all levels as much as possible.

Yours truly,

Joe Nixon  
Member, Bonny Doon School Board  
2003 — 2007

speaker #36

# 37

- 05.22.11. R



May 20, 2011

Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Monterey County and currently reside in Salinas. I am concerned about the redistricting process and the potential impacts on my community.

The current Congressional and Assembly Districts I believe, represent my community well. I would be opposed to any significant changes or deviations to them. I feel the counties of Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and portions of Santa Clara share many factors. Our common factors are water, education, news, environmental agencies, agriculture, and employment. Our elected officials understand and represent the issues facing these communities in Sacramento extremely well. From our seasonal farm-workers, Monterey Bay Sanctuary, to gang violence our communities are tied together. Many people seek their homes, work, and education within these cities. Modifying these districts would do irreparable harm to the residents.

The districts I believe are in need of re-shaping are Senate Districts 15 and 12. Their current make-up does an injustice to our residents! SD 15 currently includes San Luis Obispo (SLO) and Santa Barbara (SB) Counties. I don't understand the relationship they have to Monterey, Santa Cruz, or Santa Clara Counties. Our police don't support SLO or SB on a regular basis. Most of the residents don't commute to work in SLO or SB. I don't turn on my local news and listen to stories about SLO or SB. Most of our coastal area is protected. SB has offshore drilling. Mr. Blakeslee supports offshore drilling in SLO. Most of our residents are opposed to drilling. Since these counties support drilling, how is it possible for Mr. Blakeslee to defend our right to protect our coast. Everyone deserves representation, SLO and SB have it! I don't feel SD 15 has equitable representation in Monterey, Santa Cruz, or Santa Clara Counties.

I live in Senate District 12. (SD 12) I really don't comprehend why we are tied to Merced, Stanislaus, or Madera Counties. I don't know anyone who drives to Modesto to work in a medical office. Our water issues are completely different. Do those counties have seawater intrusion issues? They have cattle, we have wine corridors. Salinas has an extremely difficult gang problem, yet I haven't seen my State Senator in Sacramento fighting for resources to help us. Mr. Cannella focuses on the concerns of Madera, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties more often than my county. I have called to gain support for issues in my community and never get a reponse. I am forced to take my concerns to my Assembly Member on Congressman. I feel I don't have a State Senator.

I appreciate your service and I thank you for your consideration.

Teri Short



Salinas, CA 93905

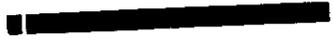


James Green



Salinas, CA 93905-1821

-05.22.11. S



May 22, 2011

Voters First Act  
Redistricting Public Testimony  
Salinas, California

Gentlepersons:

I am writing regarding the 2011 Redistricting Process.

There are many people contributing many rationales for the six Prop 11 criteria for defining a voting district. Rather than simply going down a list of many good criteria, I wish to contribute my own unique personal medical story to illustrate how the Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay Area are a coherent community separate from San Luis Obispo to the South or Silicon Valley to the North or the Central Valley to the East.

Sixteen years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. At the time, I was a full time college student and had no income beyond student aid. I am alive today solely because of Monterey County's "Medically Indigent Adult" (MIA) program. All my treatments from surgery to chemotherapy to recovery physical therapy were performed in Monterey Bay Area medical facilities. I did not go to San Luis Obispo or Silicon Valley or the Central Valley for my cancer treatments.

Few residents of the Salinas/Monterey area with any but the most severe or unusual medical conditions routinely travel out of the Salinas/Monterey area for treatment, and in no case would they go to San Luis Obispo or the Central Valley.

In short, the Salinas/Monterey medical infrastructures, including the hospital governing districts, are separate and unique from surrounding regions. This should be taken into account when redrawing the new district borders.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
James Green

-05.22.11.T

**TO:** California Citizen's Redistricting Commission  
1130 K St., Suite 101

**FROM:** Fernando Armenta, County Supervisor District 1

**DATE:** Sunday, May 22, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Redistricting of Monterey County

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**Honorable Distinguished Chairperson and members of the Commission**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

I am Fernando Armenta the current supervisor-representing district 1 on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors since January 9, 2001.

I have served on the Salinas City Council for 9 ½ years and major Pro-Tem for 4 years.

Current Chair of the Monterey Salinas Transit District

Current member on the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority.

Past President and current member of the Salinas LULAC Council # 2055 for 25 years.

In 1980 became a founding member of the Alisal Betterment Committee was responsible for beginning the Latino political empowerment process. Responsible for electing the 1<sup>st</sup> Latino to the Salinas City Council, Honorable Simon Salinas, and various other Latino Elected Officials since 1980.

A Federal Voting Rights lawsuit plaintiff against the City of Salinas in 1987.  
A member of the organizing coalition to push for district elections for Hartnell College, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, and Monterey County Municipal Court Judges.

I was born and raised in the City of Salinas that comprises 35% of the total county population. An East Salinas resident since 1987.

I have walked precincts registering and getting the vote out since 1980.

## **II. ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

California League of Cities and Latino Caucus for 9 years.

National League of Cities and Latino Caucus for 8 years.

National Association of Social Workers.

National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials for 19 years

Member and current board member of the California Association of County Supervisors since 2001

Member of the National Association of County Supervisors

## **III. REDISTRICTING EXPERIENCE**

Plaintiff Armenta vs. City of Salinas 1987 Federal Rights Law Attorney by Joaquin Avila.

Since 1987 Directly involved in Raza Re-Districting Coalition that resulted in district elections for City of Salinas, Hartnell College, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Municipal Court Judges.

Co-directed the formation of the Monterey County Raza Districting Coalition in 2001

## **IV. CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

Request and urge the California Legislature to support the purpose and goal of the Voting Rights Act.

The Latino Community must have a redistricting plan that gives us the viable chance to elect a preferred candidate of choice.

## **V. COUNTY REPRESENTATION IMPORTANCE**

Keep community of interest together

Regional Transportation such as MST is a community of interest issue.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary is a community of interest

Association of Monterey Bay Area Government Agency is a community of interest

Regional Landfills shared by residents is a community of interest issue.

Sharing of same watershed is a community of interest issue.

Allow for local school districts, city council, Board of Supervisors, Community college districts to be represented by a cohesive assembly and Senate seat.

Elkhorn Slough Sanctuary is a community of interest issue.

Regional Tourism is a community of interest issue.

Regional Educational Collaboration between UC Santa Cruz, California State University of Monterey Bay, Hartnell College, Gavilan College, Cabrillo College and Monterey Peninsula College is a community of interest issue.

## **VI. LOCAL POSITIVE RESULTS OF DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

Seen more effective representation for underserved groups and geographic communities.

Affordable housing and access to health care has become a progressive reality.

Neighborhood Service and Healthy Start Centers.

Affordable Housing Units

New development dedicated land for parks, school, and fire stations.

Soccer fields.

Safe Havens for our youth.

Local public transportation needs are addressed.

A diverse competent workforce.

A strategic plan in place between City of Salinas and Monterey County to build a

Regional soccer sports complex

The success of building of a first ever permanent start of art water system for San Jerardo Community

In 2001 for the first time in over 25 years South County cities received public transit services

Neighborhoods thereafter were able to receive local mental health services

The farm worker community now has an active advocate on every school board district, majority support on the Monterey County Board of Supervisor

Most local cities, city councils are forming intergovernmental gang violence prevention projects.

Local elected officials and constituents have begun to formulate collaborations with the agriculture and hospitality associations to address common challenges and opportunities around employment and economic development.

We also have been able to build and maintain productive relationship with the faith, labor and the civil rights groups like LULAC, NAACP, and COPA

(Community Organized for Political Actions)

## VII. CONCLUSION

Please make sure that communities of interest are kept intact.

Please guarantee that Latino voting strength is not diluted

Because of good common sense district maps and plans, everyone is able to have a reasonable fair chance to elect competent and very diverse elected officials.

If the intent and purpose of Federal Voting Rights Act of 1964 is taken seriously to the fullest extent, then we have an obligation together to provide equal and fair representation at the local, state, and federal level.

*Thank you for giving us the privilege to address each one of you today.*

  
**Fernando Armenta**  
**County Supervisor-District 1**  
**May 22, 2011**

-05.22.11.0

# 40

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Gregory Rivera, I live at [REDACTED], Hollister, near Monterey and Santa Cruz.

San Benito County has more in common with Monterey and Santa Cruz County.

1. California State University at Monterey specifically recruits students from San Benito High so does The University of California at Santa Cruz.

2. Hollister and San Juan Bautista or more conveniently assessable to Monterey and Santa Cruz County.

3. I would have to cross over a mountain to travel to Merced County, which, I never have for any reason.

4. The state's geography, history, economy and demography all make clear that San Luis Obispo, Merced and Santa Barbara, for example, should not be part of the same district as San Benito, Monterey or Santa Cruz Counties.

5. My brother's softball team has nothing in common with San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Merced counties, they would travel to Monterey, Salinas or Santa Cruz for a game.

6. Since early childhood, I've only known of Monterey and Santa Cruz County being a communities of interest for recreation, entertainment and nature for San Benito County ie: Hollister and San Juan Bautista.

7. Please consider incorporating Assembly District 27 and 28 into one Senate District.

8. San Benito, Monterey and Santa Cruz County's share a strong marriage of history, diversity, economy, bay, and media markets.

9. All local governments are all in AMBAG and have air basin and watershed in common.

10. The above facts only make sense for a San Benito County and its interests to Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

Please consider my opinions when deciding redistricting lines and thank you for your service to the state of California.

Thank you,

Gregory Rivera

- 05.22.11. V

# 40

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Gregory Rivera, I reside at [REDACTED] Hollister near Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

Since 2008 I've been working hard to incorporate Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties LGBT Community with San Benito County. These minority groups and largely minority group in San Benito County have collaborated through Salinas Valley equality and The Diversity Center. I'm asking to today, to incorporate Assembly District 27 and 28 into one Senate District.

San Benito County's LGBT Community would have to cross over a mountain to get to Merced County and drive 2 hours south to get to San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara. However, the City of Monterey, Salinas and Santa Cruz are conveniently nested close to the City of Hollister and San Juan Bautista. I urge you to keep Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties within San Benito Counties reach.

Thank you,

Gregory Rivera

Comments to Citizens Redistricting Commission, 21 May 2011

I am Ed Mitchell speaking in behalf of the Prunedale Neighbors Group. PNG was formed because of land use and water overdraft issues in north Monterey County. We see significant community of interest differences between the Salinas and San Joaquin Valleys separated by the Coastal Mountain Range. Therefore we recommend that that State Senate and Assembly districts not cross the crest of the Coastal Range but parallel the north-to-south length of the valleys.

The two valleys have distinctly different community interests stemming from the sources of sustainable water in each geographic area, available bodies of water, the different economic industries impacted, the government and private stakeholders seeking control and access of water rights in each region, and different water solutions.

San Joaquin water comes from Sierra Mountain snow pack, the state canal system, and local ground sources. Recent political discord and court battles attest to the involvement of federal judges hearing arguments around northern water flowing to agricultural uses in the inland valley versus environmental and delta preservationists versus Southern California water users.

Salinas Valley has neither physical connection nor legal involvement in the decades long economic battles just described. We have our own set of circumstances and resulting water issues. We survive on rainfall and historic ground water sources consumed by decades of over drafting. We struggle with sustainability versus pesticide pollution unique to our coastal crops. The Coastal region borders the Pacific Ocean, the Marine Sanctuary with shoreline slews, is experiencing saltwater intrusion into our water basins, while stakeholders work on costly desalination solutions.

Thus the two regions have hugely different community interests. Please redistrict so Senate and Assembly districts do not cross the Coastal Range. Plus, the coastal community of interest stretching from Pacifica to Paso Robles appears to have sufficient population to meet redistricting density requirements.

Ed Mitchell, Co-founder Prunedale Neighbors Group

Salinas CA 93907

-05.22.11.X

# 49

STATEMENT  
CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA  
May 22, 2011

I am Beverly Bean, President of the League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula (lwvmp.org). I am also speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County (lwvsc.org). We very much appreciate the opportunity to address your commission on the "Community of Interest" for our region. In keeping with historic League interests, our perspective on "communities of interest" focuses on effectiveness of government and opportunities for long-term planning.

For the purpose of Assembly District 27, we define our community of interest as one that includes all of Santa Cruz County and the coastal regions of Monterey County. These areas share common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district. In particular, these areas share coastal resources devoted to marine research, education, and tourism. Further, agriculture resources are extensive in Santa Cruz County and the coastal region of Monterey County. From a land use perspective, a large part of the area is within the coastal zone and subject to the California Coastal Act.

Examples of the many research institutions in the two counties include Long Marine Lab, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Hopkins Marine Lab, NOAA's Pacific Marine Fisheries Laboratory, the Naval Research Laboratory and the US Geological Survey-Pacific Science Center. Higher education institutions include UC Santa Cruz, California State University at Monterey Bay, the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Defense Language Institute, and Cabrillo and Monterey Peninsula Community Colleges. In additions, there are several other large federal organizations: the National Weather Service and the US Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center. Major cultural activities including the world renowned Cabrillo Music, Monterey Jazz and Carmel Bach Festivals are just three examples of cultural events attracting visitors from around the country. In addition to these cultural resources, visitors come to enjoy our incomparable scenery and recreational facilities.

The areas are also connected by common media outlets including radio and television. Radio stations KAZU and KUSP and TV stations KION and KSBW are heard or seen throughout the area. Finally, the areas are connected by transportation networks making travel between the areas readily accessible.

For the larger Senate District 15, we define our community of interest as the counties comprising the Association of Monterey Bay Area Government's region: Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. The region shares vast agricultural resources, a growing tourist industry, Hartnell Community College in addition to the education and research facilities previously addressed. These communities identify both with their counties through the electoral process as well as at the regional level. It shares planning efforts for air pollution control and transportation and is working together to address climate change requirements. Like the community of interest for the Assembly District, it shares common media outlets and transportation networks.

These communities of interest were recognized in the organization of Assembly District 27 and Senate District 15 established in 1990. While we recognize that demographics may have changed in the last 20 years, we urge you to give careful consideration to the communities I described today.

Lastly, I want to thank the commissioners for volunteering to participate in this historic redistricting process. As you know, the League of Women Voters of California was one of the signers of the ballot arguments in favor of Proposition 11. As a League member, I am excited to see the process moving forward.

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- 05.22.11.2

[REDACTED]

Felipe Hernandez  
[REDACTED]  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
[REDACTED]

Dear Members of the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission:

My name is Felipe Hernandez. I am a 39 year resident of Watsonville (Pajaro Valley) community of interest. I went to all local schools including EA Hall Middle School, Watsonville High School and UC Santa Cruz. I'm very actively involved with Watsonville's community issues. I am currently a Planning Commissioner and have worked with Labor for the last 10 years. I'm a veteran of the US Army, served in Desert Storm, and a member of both American Legion and Veteran's of Foreign Wars. Thank you for the opportunity to let you know about our community of interest, based in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, including its proposed boundaries of South Santa Clara, Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County and the eastward boundary of Highway 5. I am here because I care about my community and I am concerned about being fairly represented for the next ten years.

Our community of interest is located within the tri-county areas of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. And its current South Santa Clara boundary and proposed southern boundary not to exceed south of Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County, including its eastern boundary not to exceed east of Highway 5.

Our community of interest has these characteristics they are: working class, concentrated poverty, Latino and immigrant populations and agricultural based farming economy (as opposed to grazing or dairy farming) The ideal COI is keep Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties or Tri-County together.

During the housing boom the Tri-County area was a bedroom community for both Santa Clara County and within its boundaries as well ie: those who could not afford Santa Cruz moved to Watsonville, Hollister or the Salinas Valley. Those who could not afford Watsonville moved to Salinas Valley. With the economic downturn, the tri-county area not only shared a high foreclosure rate but a high unemployment rate.

Even our television media market's boundaries are comprised of the Tri-County area. When we watch our local news it is about our local neighboring towns comprised of the Tri-County area.

Our workforce in agriculture and service industry is shared throughout the Tri-County area. Many of Watsonville's residents work in the agriculture industry throughout the Salinas Valley and vice-versa.

In terms of the boundaries, we should not exceed south of Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County. It is the last of the cities on the 101 corridor that is frequented by Salinas Valley residents. And it is one of the last cities along the 101 corridor that has agricultural based farming.

The eastern boundary line should not exceed the Highway 5. While, I would be more comfortable for it not to exceed San Benito County, the Highway 5 provides a good natural line. The agriculture business is different than that of the tri-county area, in that the tri-county ag is more labor intensive farming as opposed to the cattle/livestock/graze farming. There is no shared community from the Tri-County region to the Central Valley.

Again we recommend: To keep the Tri-County communities of interest whole and not to exceed Paso Robles in the South or Highway 5 in to the East. Thank you very much.