

Subject: Citizens Redistrict Comm: Public Testimony - Re: San Diego's East County with Imperial Valley Desert

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2011 8:56 PM

From: Tim & Mona Petersen/Rock Canyon Vineyards <[REDACTED]>

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Conversation: Citizens Redistrict Comm: Public Testimony - Re: San Diego's East County with Imperial Valley Desert

ROCK CANYON VINEYARDS

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May 22, 2011

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

RE: Public Testimony regarding redistricting San Diego's East County Communities with the Imperial Valley Desert

We live and own a winery and vineyard in the backcountry mountain area of Alpine, CA (91901). We have always loved our East County communities: the beautiful, scenic mountains, the Cleveland National Forest, the highlands, trees and meadows, the cool mountain air and breezes, the lakes and streams, the unique horseback and hiking mountain trails throughout the "backcountry"; the wildlife in our area. Of course, we can't forget, in most areas, we get to experience all of the four seasons.

We grow mainly cabernet wine grapes – these grapes require cool summer evenings and sunny summer days...Alpine is the perfect climate! We also raise Andalusian horses – and our great balmy weather makes it easy and enjoyable to work daily outside with these beautiful animals....Unlike the ungodly, sweltering, unforgiving heat of the Imperial Valley desert – temps in the summer can go as high as 118 degrees !!

San Diego's East County communities that we refer to include: Alpine, El Cajon, La Mesa, Santee, Lakeside, Ramona, Descanso, Julian, Jamul, Dulzura, Pine Valley, Guatay, Campo & Boulevard.

All of our East County communities share close and unique bonds in many ways. Many of us are equestrians, outdoor recreationalists, lovers of rural, nature, peaceful lifestyle; many have ranches or acreage and also, bedroom communities.

Our beautiful East County is known for its rugged mountains and steep terrain – our communities also share the same extreme high fire risk – we have had many catastrophic wild fires, at least 3 were caused by SDG&E (San Diego Gas and Electric – owned by Sempra Energy Corporation), for faulty maintenance of their power lines. SDG&E was fined over \$14 MILLION for negligence. After those devastating fires, SDG&E tried very hard, but, thankfully failed, to enact a (cruel) "shut-off plan"...A plan to shut off ALL of East County's electricity,,including resident's power, during high winds! – Even if it happened

in the middle of the night – without warning!!! Most East County residents have water-wells powered by electricity generated pumps – as well as phones requiring electricity – (cell phones don't get good reception out here). SDG&E's so-called "shut-off plan" may have benefitted them and their higher insurance costs for their negligence – but the plan would have been devastating to innocent people and definitely NOT in the best interests of our East County Communities!

As part of the East County Community – we have witnessed the hard work and dedication by our local firefighters and agencies – working together as a team – to ensure that we are prepared for wild fire – the logistics and prevention are the best in the state! The Imperial Valley has absolutely NO engagement or concern in East County's firefighting efforts and accomplishments. We might as well be on different planets!

The East County has some ground water issues (most backcountry residents are "groundwater – well" dependent). We are constantly threatened with urban developers such as Sempra Energy Corporation. We are currently fighting Sempra/SDG&E's unneeded, unwanted Sunrise Powerlink – a 120 mile dangerous, outdated and polluting 500KV transmission line. The Sunrise Powerlink's ONLY purpose is to connect to Sempra's foreign LNG (natural gas) electricity generating source in Baja, Mexico, not for San Diego, but for Los Angeles – SDG&E/Sempra falsely claim the line is for San Diego's renewable & geothermal projects...that is NOT TRUE! If

the East County Communities were lumped in with the Imperial Valley Desert – would the serious water rationing (Colorado River), shortages & expense the Imperial Valley farmers are mostly concerned about – all of a sudden become East County’s problem...and expense?? That would not be at all fair!!

The East County Communities have NOTHING in common with the Imperial Valley Desert & Farmland:

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- East County: higher mountain elevations and cooler or balmy weather.
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- Imperial Valley: is a desert, at sea level – sweltering 110 degrees average unbearable temperature in the summer. (I lived there – I know!)
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- East County is residential, rural, equestrian, outdoor lovers, ranches, acreage and bedroom communities.
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- Imperial Valley is a desert farming community, migrant workers as well as a low income to below poverty level community – with extremely HIGH unemployment, and serious, debilitating air pollution.
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- East County has serious wildfire concerns – as well as concerns for preserving & protecting the environment, wild life, open spaces and wild-lands from unnecessary corporate development and destruction.
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- Imperial County has no wild fire concerns – and would approve of any and all unnecessary corporate development – without any concerns for preservation and/or protection of the environment. (Again, I know, I lived there!).

There are many differences between the “East County” and the “Imperial Valley Desert & Farmland”. To lump our communities together – when we have such different needs – would only end up hurting both the East County AND the Imperial Valley....like a “house divided will not stand”. The only one who might benefit – would be SDG&E/Sempra- as a way to “dilute” East County’s **strong** opposition voting voice! Please serve the people and the environment – not a private utility monopoly with a very deceptive agenda.

Thank you for your time, consideration and efforts!
Mona & Tim Petersen, Rock Canyon Vineyards