

From: **Duane & Donna** [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, May 2, 2011 at 1:45 PM  
Subject: Redistricting of Kern County  
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Commission,

The voters of California, have charged you with the task of redistricting; we would like to "Thank you" for accepting this *daunting* challenge...

We moved to the County of Kern 45 years ago, raised our family and continue to live in our family home just a few miles west of Ridgecrest...we have children and grandchildren who also have made the area their home as well. We would like to share our thoughts, concerns and a recommendation for consideration; to assist you when drawing district lines of representation for Kern County...

- Kern County is unique by its very vast and large size alone, and **should be kept whole with no distinction and/or separation into East and West Kern.**
- Kern County is unique with its rich diversity, ranging from natural resources, agriculture, military installations and recreation necessary making it valuable to keep the district lines drawn in concert with the already established Kern County lines without any division of the county.

- Kern County has great representation at the present time, with the Assembly, Senate and the US Congress and any division of the county would not be in the best interest of its residents who live and work here. Having legislators representing both the Bakersfield metro area and the rural mountain and desert regions creates a balance between urban and rural needs that promotes Regional economic growth, delivery of services, and quality of life for all Kern County residents.
- The Indian Wells Valley/Ridgecrest, sometimes referred to as East Kern, has played a vital role working side-by-side, supporting the Kern County officials who prepared the State of California for the previous round of Base Realignment and Closure, otherwise known as "BRAC". It was Kern County legislators that chaired both the Assembly and Senate Select committees on military support making it possible to avoid base closures in Kern County.
- Ridgecrest, home of the Naval Air Warfare, Weapons Center/China Lake, work together with Edwards Air Force Base in maintaining one of Americas largest area of contiguous air space. Dividing the county and sending East Kern into another congressional district, just would not work for the people who live and work here, nor is it what the people want.
- Sierra Sands Unified School District of the Indian Wells Valley/Ridgecrest and Edwards Air Force Base are presently working toward critical facilities funding issues to better serve our future generations in their educational process. Any division could be detrimental for them during this process, making it imperative not to make any district separations at this time.
- Geographically, it may appear that East Kern would be better aligned with the Antelope Valley Area and/or San Bernardino county, *it would not!!!* East Kern residents depend on our "county seat" of Bakersfield for services and shopping that

the Indian Wells Valley cannot provide. Tehachapi and the Kern River Valley provide respite and recreation to our area residents and military personnel.

· **Recommendation: Please make it a viable priority to investigate and visit our area and meet with knowledgeable representatives of both the Naval Air Warfare, Weapons Center and Edwards Air Force Base to find out for yourselves the importance of this areas representation of legislators aligned with Bakersfield. Some folks may think this portion of Kern County, as "another planet"...however; this area is of vital importance for the defense and security of our nation to keep Kern County boundaries intact.**

In our opinion, as a rule...any division of cities and/or counties, provides no benefit to the residents, but instead...creates division among the very folks who live there, pitting one area over another.

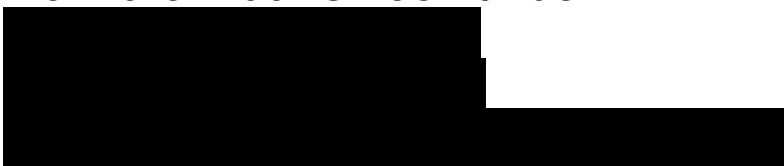
Again, let us **urge you, please do not divide Kern County but to leave it whole...**

We hope by sharing our concerns with you, it will help make your job a little easier to draw effective lines for redistricting.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our views, please feel free to contact us...

Again, we appreciate your efforts in being fair and drawing the lines to benefit what the people want.

Donna & Duane Pockrandt



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