

From: Sharon Byrne

Date: Tue, May 3, 2011 at 6:22 PM

Subject: PLEASE make Santa Barbara County one district

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

PLEASE put Santa Barbara County into one Assembly District and make it the new 35th. There are multiple good reasons to do so. Oxnard and Ventura are quite different in make-up from Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, and the latter two share some traits that make more sense to keep them in a contiguous district. The current district makes little sense when one looks at it on a map, as it's clearly been gerrymandered to take advantage of the following constituencies:

- Indian Gaming
- Unions
- College Students @ UCSB

This results in the district's voter registration at over 60% Democratic Party, and means no other party can ever successfully mount a challenge. Yet, these three constituency groups mentioned above do **not** represent a majority of the area's residents, yet they control the district. A great many of us are being held hostage to a minority of special interests due to the current gerrymandered carving up of the district.

Putting the county into one district would stop the domination of Ventura and Oxnard by Santa Barbara, thus giving them representation more focused on their needs. It would also bring in valley voters and north county voters, who currently are in a different district. Santa Barbara shares more in common with

the valley and north county than it does with Ventura and Oxnard. The South county, valley, and North County residents are all under the same county leadership, and sheriff. They are a community of interest, contained within one county. Splitting the county into the current two disparate Assembly districts splits the community of interest, and it is for this reason I encourage you to make Santa Barbara County the new 35th.

Kind regards,

Sharon Byrne
Santa Barbara, Ca