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From: **Tom Watson** [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, May 3, 2011 at 9:02 PM  
Subject: Redistricting  
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov  
Cc: Tom Watson <tcwatson3@cox.net>

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attn: Honorable Commission Members

Re: The 35th Assembly District and 23rd Congressional District

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

In the very near future you will be announcing the first draft of assembly, state senate and congressional districts. Over the last 10 years the Central Coast has received national attention for gerrymandering at its worst, in particular the grotesque 23rd Congressional District which earned it's own name "the ribbon of shame". The old senate and congressional districts until 2002, were essentially comprised of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. And all of Santa Barbara County was in one Assembly District. The Congressional District should be Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. We have much in common from an industrial, educational and agricultural perspective and the district explicitly complies with all of the redistricting law's mandates to keep cities, counties and communities of interest together.

Currently the Santa Barbara County is cut in half for the assembly district and less than that for the congressional district. At your recent hearings in San Luis Obispo you heard almost every person testifying asking that you keep all of SB County in one Assembly District. Significantly, that request has strong bi-partisan support being led by former Assembly Members, Democrat Pedro Nava and Republican Brooks Firestone. **And we understand that the Commission is going to work hard to**

**assure minority vote is not disenfranchised. On that front it is very significant that at your Oxnard hearing the non-profit SCORE fully supported this same approach requesting that all of Santa Barbara County be included in one Assembly District as well.**

At the end of the day, given the national attention of the gerrymandered central coast districts, this is where people will look first to see whether redistricting was really done in the objective way that the voters hoped would happen when they passed the initiatives creating the Redistricting Commission and giving you the power to take politics out of the process. We hope you will heed the voters wishes.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

**Tom Watson**

**Summerland, CA**