

May 4, 2011

Eric Christianson

[REDACTED]  
Solvang, CA 93463

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

Re: The 35th Assembly District Boundaries - Upcoming Draft

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

Soon 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. 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.

Currently the Santa Barbara County is cut in half. 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 voter's wishes.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Eric Christianson