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From: **Melinda B Mars** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, May 4, 2011
Subject: Redistricting
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Melinda & Dean Mars

[REDACTED]
Montecito, Ca 93108

Citizens Redistricting Commission

1130 K Street, Suite 101

Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Honorable Commission Members

> Re: The 35th Assembly 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. 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 voters wishes.
- > Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.
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- > Sincerely,

Melinda Mars