

[REDACTED]
From: **Steven C. Robinson** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, May 4, 2011 at 10:05 AM
Subject: Redistricting of Central Valley
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to offer suggestions for redistricting California. I attended your meeting in Hanford and deeply appreciate the efforts of the commission.

My concern is with representation of the community of interest in the San Joaquin Valley and I agree with much of comment at the Hanford meeting that we in the valley have little in common with those on the "other side of the mountain" – the Sierra Nevada to the east, the Coast Range to the west, and the Tehachapis to the south. Therefore, I suggest that outer limits for districts in the valley be drawn at the crest of these ranges. In that regard, I have made a start at my recommendation by using the mapping tools at redrawca.org <<http://redrawca.org/>> <[Page 1 of 6](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

redrawca.org/> . Where possible, I have used county lines as defining borders (but that is not always possible given the population requirements). Following are my suggestions for three state assembly districts starting from the south:

A. Kern (west of the Sierra-Tehachapi mountain crest), Southern Kings, Southern Tulare, and South-Western Fresno Counties (these areas have a significant commercial orientation to the Bakersfield metro area). The population of this district is 931,062 (close to your goal by -286 or -.03%). The population increase in this example is helped (upward) by inclusion of the major state prison facilities in southern Kings County (drawn at the southern most edge of the City of Corcoran and the area surrounding Avenal) and far western Fresno County (primarily the Coalinga area). Although western Fresno County is somewhat remote from the Bakersfield metro "hub", it is helped by the expedient access provided by I-5. There is significant commercial connection between Porterville (southern Tulare County) and Bakersfield via State 65, the "Porterville-Bakersfield Highway". The Race/Ethnicity is 54.18% Hispanic/Latino, 34.46% White, 4.91% Black or African American, 3.85% Asian, 0.97% Some Other Race, and 1.60% two or More Races.

B. Northern Kings County, Northern Tulare County, and Fresno County (except the far south-western area in "A" above and most of the Fresno metro area): The heart of this area has much cultural and commercial commonality. The primary commercial areas are Visalia, Hanford, the smaller towns in south-central Fresno County (Selma, Sanger, etc.). Locally, the media and certain institutions [i.e. CSU Fresno, etc.] refer to this area as the "South Valley." The Kings River water system is the common resource to the majority of the area. The population of this district is 931,690 (close to your goal by +342 or +.04%). The Race/Ethnicity is 59.18% Hispanic/Latino, 28.60% White, 3.48% Black or African American, 6.37% Asian, 0.82% Some Other Race, and 1.55% two or More Races.

C. The majority of the Fresno Metro area; all of Madera,

Merced, and Mariposa Counties; and the Turlock area of Stanislaus County: Alternately to that described in "B" above, locally, the media and certain institutions [i.e. CSU Fresno, etc.] refer to this area as the "North Valley." While the preference would be to include only full counties, the population requirements do not so permit – thus the inclusion of the Turlock area. Nonetheless, the proximity to the other major metro areas (Fresno, Madera, and Merced) is easily traveled along the State 99 corridor. The population of this district is 931,954 (close to your goal by -394 or -.04%). The Race/Ethnicity is 43.45% Hispanic/Latino, 41.93% White, 4.02% Black or African American, 7.47% Asian, 0.94% Some Other Race, and 2.18% two or More Races.

Although I have not identified the state senate districts, I suggest the my "A" and "B" comprise one senate district and that my "C" be combined with the next Assembly district to the north for a senate district. I have not yet attempted to create congressional districts but would anticipate that they would similarly start from the south and move north.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven C. Robinson

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