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From: [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, May 5, 2011 at 11:36 PM

Subject: AV Redistricting Hearing - 1 May 2011

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

To: Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Refr: Public Input Hearing, May 1, 2011, Lancaster, CA

First we would like to thank you for traveling to the Antelope Valley to see the area and hear from the citizens. We found the presentation very informative. Some presentations were of concern to us as in all appearances they were political in nature and violated the stated guidelines for the hearing.

The citizen from Burbank is recommending a district to encompass an Armenian contingent without presenting any other community similarities within the proposed area. He also did not show how the district differed in industry, demographics, businesses, etc. from the surrounding areas. Another citizen representing a Latino Organization announced they were providing maps that would increase the Latino representation in South Los Angeles from 5 to 6 Assemblymen and add one additional Latino to the State Senate. He also announced that they are prepared to sue if they did not get the districts they proposed. It was disconcerting when one of the Commission Members asked if the maps had been submitted and appeared receptive when the individual noted there would be three sets of maps delivered to the Commission, one for the State Assembly Districts, one for the State Senate District, and one for the Congressional district. We are aware of the Voting Rights Act but these Organizations are overtly gerrymandering to increase specific ethnic representation within California. We would hope such submissions that are openly favoring special interest

regardless of the other factors that should be considered in drawing the Districts would not be entertained and end up in the shredder. Finally, we would like to thank the Chairman for advising the last two speakers on the political nature of their request to provide consideration to construct Districts within the AV with more Democrat representation. We thank all of you for your efforts to provide representative Districts in California that reflect the true make-up of the individual areas. Your task is truly daunting and very important to the governing of our State.

Thank you,

Charles & Mary Athas

