

From: **Anna Soto**

Date: Wed, May 4, 2011 at 10:42 PM

Subject: Please acknowledge receipt of this email.....Community of interest concern

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

Thank you for dedicating such a large portion of your personal life to creating fair districts that represent the common interest of our community. It is a grave task you set out to achieve, I wish you all the best as you listen to the testimony of the hundreds of residents who all just want the best for their families and cities.

On that note, I respectfully am submitting my concerns about the drawing of the Assembly/Senate/Congressional/Board of Equalization districts for the Pomona Valley.

As the public hearing notice stated, public participation in drawing these districts is critical to ensuring that communities have the strongest voice possible to express their preferences. When voters with similar interests are drawn into a district together, their voices multiply giving them a greater opportunity to express their views, elect candidates of their choice and hold their leaders accountable.

This synergy in the communities surrounding Pomona is exactly what exists today. The relationships of the residents in Pomona with residents of Montclair, Ontario, Chino, Chino Hills, are based on a number of variables. Personally, I am a seventh generation Pomona born resident. As such, I have generations of cousins, aunts and uncles living in the nearby cities listed above. We hold family gatherings and enjoy close ties of trust and helping each other out when in need, as most families do. We also depend on one another for direction and guidance when it comes to electing our local leaders. This aspect of coming from a large family strengthens our ability in achieving adequate representation for our concerns and interests.

In addition to family, I also have many close friendships with others residing in the surrounding cities of Montclair, Chino, Chino Hills and Ontario. We have common bonds of enjoying volunteering for community projects, donating toward various causes which contribute to our great city of Pomona. These relationships make work fun!

There are many childrens athletic leagues and organizations in the Pomona Valley as well. These types of activities teach kids how to be responsible citizens which contribute to a strong vibrant neighborhood. The bonds that are formed between different parents because their children are friends with each other can be very powerful in getting things done. We have neighborhood watch groups and lean on our elected leaders to provide as much fair public service to us possible. As a organized body of residents, we hold the elected official accountable to commitments made to improve and maintain our quality of life in our neighborhoods.

None of us have anything in common with the communities of Diamond Bar, Walnut or San Dimas. We mostly socialize, shop, work and play in the cities to the east of the 57/210 freeway junction.

If Pomona were to be put into a new Assembly/Senate/Congressional district, separated from the easts cities, it would demoralize and decimate the relationships built over the lifetimes of our friends and families. These relationships are special and unique. The synergy from them is what makes a community a place to call home.

Please consider these items of concern when you are drafting the new districts. Keep Pomona in Pomona Valley districts.

Blessings,

Anna Soto

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and contact information of Anna Soto.