

From: Peggy Breeden [REDACTED]
Subject: redistricting from my point of viewPeggy Breeden

Message Body:
Peggy Breeden
[REDACTED]
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

To The Citizens Redistricting Committee

My name is Peggy Breeden and although I am an elected official I represent only myself today.

You state in your paperwork that a Community of Interest is a geographically connected population which shares common social and economic interests.

We believe a community is defined by even more than their common interests. They are defined and strengthened by their diversity.

First let we tell you where we are located. The Ridgecrest/Indian Wells Valley area is located in northeastern Kern County, adjacent to the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. Ridgecrest is the only incorporated city along US 395 in Kern County. The population was 30,151 in 2008. The city of Ridgecrest is a largely "military" oriented community - big enough to provide plenty of fine schools, shopping, health care, and hospitals. Ridgecrest is surrounded by four mountain ranges; the Sierra Nevada on the west, the Cosos on the north, the Argus Range on the east, and the El Paso Mountains

on the south. It is approximately 82 miles from the Lancaster/Palmdale area and approximately 145 miles from Bakersfield. Air travel in and out of the city is provided by numerous daily scheduled flight through the Inyokern Airport. The IWV is the second largest population base in Kern County.

As far as redistricting goes, we know you are mandated to make some changes and thank you for the opportunity to speak. We understand we are going to lose part of our larger community - the friends and neighbors who elect our United State House of Representatives plus our State Senate and Assembly. We will feel that loss because we have been united in our common interests and strengthened by our differences.

Given that, we would ask that the county line of Kern and San Luis Obispo County be the border of our area and that the balance of our "common community" remain the same - basically the Kern County lines.

Ridgecrest is only two hours from the highest and the lowest points in the contiguous United States, these major differences illustrate the major differences and the unity in - our Community of Interest.

You have heard from various interests within our valley: the military, businesses, tourism, the arts, education, City interests, environmental interests and ordinary individuals.

After you have heard from all of us today and those in the future, you will see why our information will reinforce our request with reasons why we belong together and why we are forged together by both our likenesses and differences. The result will be a strong cohesive entity that will continue to grow and prosper, as we have in the past.

We ask you to listen to these people and consider our requests. Thank you

--