

Subject: Public Comment: Antelope Valley Redistricting

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2011 6:10 PM

From: Erick Byarushengo [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Public Comment: Antelope Valley Redistricting

From: Erick Byarushengo [REDACTED]

Subject: Antelope Valley Redistricting

Message Body:

Commissioner's-

I want to thank you for hosting a meeting in the Antelope Valley last weekend. Unfortunately I was unable to attend and just thought I'd write a public comment.

The High Desert is made up into three different counties. Kern, Los Angeles, And San Bernardino.

Therefore, it would make sense that the Antelope Valley/east Kern County communities of Lancaster, Palmdale, Rosamond, Mojave, Boron, and California City be put into one Assembly district.

It would also make sense to put in the communities of Elizabeth Lake, Lake Hughes, and Leona Valley in the same district. If you are a parent with teenage in that area, they are zoned to attend Quartz Hill High School located inside the western boundaries of Lancaster. Many people who live in that area also work in either Lancaster or Palmdale. They also do their shopping in these two cities.

The east Kern County communities of Rosamond, Mojave, Boron, and California City are all centered around the aerospace industry, as well as Edwards Air Force Base located east of Mojave. There are quite a few residents of Lancaster and Palmdale that work over at Edwards AFB. Many people who live in either Rosamond or Mojave both work and do their shopping in Lancaster and Palmdale.

Many people in the Antelope Valley and east Kern County are connected in many ways. We attend Antelope Valley College, we shop at the Antelope Valley mall, we really are connected by Highway 14, and issues for people who have to take Highway 14 each day to commute to work down in Los Angeles. We have our own elected water board, the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). I do not want to see this area split up into different voting district's.

The same goes to the San Bernardino County part of the High Desert. I currently live in Assembly district 36 which covers Los Angeles county part of the Antelope Valley, as well as Victor Valley. If I were living in Victorville, I'd feel underrepresented because every person running for office is always coming from the Antelope Valley, located 50 miles away.

Because of that, there should be an Assembly district exclusively for north San Bernardino county that includes the communities of Apple Valley, Hesperia, Adalanto, Victorville, and Barstow. That way there will be someone to represent that area.

These two High Desert Assembly district's should join together to form one High Desert Senate District.

We have way different issues than from people who live south of us in Los Angeles as well as those who live northwest of us in Bakersfield. Do not put us in the same district as their issues on a local basis is different than our.

We need to have someone who will give us representation as a high desert as a whole. There are issues that we have when it comes to trying to bring in water or other types of resources to a desert community. I feel like the High Desert is not just only going to lead the state, but also the nation when it comes to wind and solar technology, and we need someone who will speak on our behalf about that.

I currently reside in the city of Lancaster. The thing that frustrates me the most as a voter/person in general is how Lancaster is split between two different Congressional district's. I also feel that a Congressman from either Bakersfield or Santa Clarita can't speak on behalf of our need for the high desert. I hope that once you start drawing up the boundary lines that you include a Congressional district completely for the High Desert. I personally believe we now have the population to have a Congressional district on our own. It would give us a strong representation on the federal level.

I hope you put my words into consideration for this area.

Erick Byarushengo
Lancaster, CA

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission