

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Redistricting

Date: Tue, 10 May 2011 19:25:30 -0700

From: Helen Ofield [REDACTED]

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

CC: [REDACTED]

We live in Lemon Grove, established in 1892 and today, a community of some 24,000 diverse residents. Like most American communities, Lemon Grove has wealth and poverty. That is, a tiny group of monied residents and a much larger group of impoverished residents. What we have more of, however, are struggling, white and blue collar residents clinging by the skin of their teeth to the middle class. We are about one fourth senior citizens. The city has no industrial base and very few large companies (a couple of car dealerships, a major trash hauling company). There is a powerful volunteer tradition in Lemon Grove--and why? Because we must rely on ourselves to get things done to help our own people.

WE DO NOT WANT LEMON GROVE TO BE SPLIT UP UNDER REDISTRICTING. This would undermine the unity and sense of neighborliness that exists in our town regardless of ethnicity. We have never had "ghettoes" in Lemon Grove. Everyone is just evenly spread through every neighborhood. We want to stay together -- that is what we fought for over four elections, ultimately winning cityhood in 1977.

We need to be connected to similar communities:

We border on southeast San Diego, South La Mesa and Spring Valley. Our school district encompasses these zip codes: 91945, 91941, 92114.

In good times and bad in a mass society, small communities must assert their identity

with particular vigor. We have a distinct identity and a proud history. We cannot be taken for granted or shunted around to fit somebody's view of how demographics should work.

We cannot attend the May 14 session at the Educational Cultural Center, but would like this message to be included in the public record.

Kind regards,

Jack and Helen Ofield

(Prof. Jack Ofield, Emeritus Prof. of Film, San Diego State University  
Helen Ofield, principal, New Pacific Productions, Inc.; president, Lemon Grove Historical Society)

Tel: [REDACTED]  
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