

Region #5: Central Coast /
Ventura (Tri County)
Region
Santa Maria

MARLIN K. BROWN
[REDACTED]
Santa Maria, CA 93455

May 17, 2011

Redistricting Commissioners
901 P Street Su. 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

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Per _____

Please downgrade to last priority the canard of "community/commonality of interest" and "cultural diversity" in your redistricting effort. Instead, please follow the mandates. Please combine Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties where possible. Please do not split counties into multiple districts. If you must divide them, please divide the Central Coast counties with lines that go East-West rather than lines that go North-South.

Regardless of your political beliefs, please follow the spirit of the citizen initiatives that created your commission. The primary concept underlying our wonderful American experiment is the rule of law, and not of men. As much as possible, each person in government is called to follow the law, regardless of their personal beliefs. Our system ultimately will fail if those trusted with great authority by the voters abuse that authority to reach their own partisan ends, if they, however purely in their own minds, believe the ends justify their abuse of the means. Please remember, in our form of government, the means are the end, the rule of law is the sound foundation upon which all else rises--or falls.

Your mandate outlines specific requirements for designing districts. Please follow those carefully, ignoring to the greatest extent possible how those guidelines might affect the outcome of a future election. Let the voting chips fall where they may. In passing these initiatives, the voters were crying out for fair elections and truly representative, effective, government. I implore you to steel yourself against any tendency to move the lines to favor one political party over another. Holding fast to the intent of your voter mandate will earn you the thanks and praise of all Californians.

Thank you,

Marlin K. Brown



Gordon R. Lindeen
Attorney at Law

Simi Valley, CA 93063

May 11, 2011

Citizen's Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Region #5:
Central Coast/
Ventura (tri-county)
Region
Simi Valley

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As an attorney and a resident of Ventura County for over 50 years, who has served in government and in charitable and professional organizations, I felt that my experience may be helpful to you. I hope that you will maintain Ventura County as a community which should be kept together and not separated into different districts. The gerrymandering of the past which split Ventura County into separate districts is totally inconsistent with the manner in which Ventura County functions.

In the provision of Governmental services, charitable services, and service organizations, Ventura County traditionally functions as a unit. Governmental services are typically provided by the County but also by independent Districts which operate on a countywide basis such as the Fire Protection District, the Library District, the Ventura County Community College District and the Watershed Protection District. Charitable organizations providing services to those in need are organized on a Countywide basis. These include such groups as the United Way, the Red Cross, the Lung Association, the Arts Council, and Associated Historical Societies and Museums of Ventura County. Similarly, service organizations are organized on a County level. These include the Ventura County Economic Development Association, the Bar Association, the Medical Association, the Agriculture Association, the County Dental Society, the Farm Bureau, and 4H Program.

Ventura County thinks of itself as an entity. Even when services are divided between different governmental agencies those agencies cooperate closely with each other. An illustration of this is the cooperation between the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (Simi Valley), the Conejo Recreation and Park District (Thousand Oaks), and the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District (Camarillo).

We hope that you will recognize Ventura County as a community which serves interests in which the residents have traditionally worked together as a unit to provide for their governmental, charitable, and business interests.

Very truly yours,


Gordon R. Lindeen

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