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From: **Marlin Brown** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thu, May 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Subject: Please Avoid Partisan Politics

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Ladies and Gentlemen--

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
THE BUGLE GROUP

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