

Subject: Keep Coachella Valley intact as a tourist attraction

Date: Friday, May 13, 2011 2:09 PM

From: harlan conkey [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Keep Coachella Valley intact as a tourist attraction

Thanks for your presentation on redistricting. I am writing to let you know that your efforts on redistricting are much appreciated and that as a concerned citizen I wanted to inform you of my preference in the redistricting discussion.

I have been coming to the Valley since 1982 for vacations, as a part time resident and now I spend about 6 months here each year. I have come to love this area, the citizens of this area and the tourism base that provides so many jobs to the local full time residences. It seems to me that the Coachella Valley area should be kept intact and not combined with the Imperial Valley due to the difference in the population, employment and interest of the citizens. The desert cities have formed a close working relationship with each other and their unique populations compliment the other communities through different education level, occupation choice and work skills. Some of the communities have been more successful than others in achieving financial assets and those cities with this blessing are frequently volunteering to share by providing help for the homeless, shelters for the children and women, and food for the hungry. We are not in an agricultural economy but rather we are in a tourism economy with many hotels, restaurants and special events destination that brings tourist to the area. It is my understanding that we have become one of the major retirement centers in the state as well as the nation so many senior citizens live here in their twilight years.

Thanks.....Harlan Conkey

Indio, CA