

[REDACTED]

Subject: Coachella Valley 'Grab' is a Political Ploy

Date: Saturday, May 14, 2011 2:34 PM

From: Bob Swensen [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Coachella Valley 'Grab' is a Political Ploy

Honorable Commissioners:

Let me speak plainly: the effort to combine tourism-oriented Coachella Valley with the agriculture-oriented Imperial Valley is an obvious attempt to turn CD45 from Republican to Democrat. Its local Democrat Party proponents are *stretching* to try and equate the two areas and using ethnicity and poverty to tug at your heartstrings. While we all care about our fellow citizens, the CRC is NOT about social engineering NOR is it about favoring one political party over another, and I hope you are very careful about that.

The Coachella Valley, where I reside, is focused on tourism. In fact, I bet you had only been here as tourists before your recent meeting! Did you ever visit the Imperial Valley as tourists? Aerial shots showing green in our area are GOLF COURSES, not fields. The minor agriculture we have includes the growing of very expensive ornamental palm trees (selling for \$250 to \$10,000 each!) and this skews our total ag dollars. We are a suburban bedroom community, not rural farmland, so we are more like the Riverside Co cities to our west, and not a thing like Imperial County.

Please do not fractionalize Riverside County. Please keep the Coachella Valley intact with its western in-county neighbors and NOT combined with Imperial County!

Respectfully,

Robert Swensen