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Subject: Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley Should Not Be Together

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From: Chris Escobedo [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley Should Not Be Together

Hello,

As someone who grew up and lived in both the Imperial and Coachella Valley's, I cannot tell you enough about the differences between the two areas.

Over the past decade, the Coachella Valley has worked hard to diversify its local economy. The Coachella Valley is heavily focused on tourism, health care, logistics, manufacturing, and renewable energy development. It is no longer an area supported by agricultural, in fact, many of the large growers sold their lands to developers or got out of the business all together.

In that same period, Imperial Valley experienced a construction boom, but if you take a quick drive out there, the area is dominated by agriculture. The progress Imperial Valley has made does not equal nor rival that of the Coachella Valley, and the last 10 years has only driven the regions further apart. The Imperial Valley is unique in the sense that it is a border community similar to Chula Vista, National City, and San Diego. You cannot underscore what an impact being along the border has on the entire economic make up of an area. Many of those living in Imperial Valley, utilize interstate 8 to travel to san diego for health services, shopping, or other transportation related items.

As a quick example of how separate Imperial Valley views itself from the Coachella Valley: The Imperial Irrigation District supplies water and energy to a portion of Coachella Valley and all of Imperial County. Despite Coachella Valley leaders asking for representation on that very powerful governing board, the IID board has long held to a position of not including the Coachella Valley into the electoral boundaries granting Coachella Valley residents the ability to vote for leaders on this board who controls their energy rates.

So, why would you have the Coachella Valley share representation with an area who is already on the record for not wanting to represent those in the Coachella Valley?

Best,

Chris Escobedo
Resident of the City of Indio
Former Resident of Brawley, Calexico, and El Centro