

Dear Redistricting Commission

I have lived in the Palm Springs area for over 50 years. I am very concerned about redistricting of the 45th Congressional District. I urge you to keep our districts within Riverside County for the following reasons

The Desert Sun recently endorsed keeping the 45th Congressional District within Riverside County and asked it not be gerrymandered into Imperial County. It noted, "On May 3, Riverside County supervisors unanimously passed a resolution urging the commission to establish Riverside County "as an intact entity to the greatest extent possible." Fractionalizing the county would "diminish local agencies' effectiveness in seeking coordinated assistance from legislators," the resolution says."

...also, "A stronger alignment would follow Interstate 10 to the west. We'd be better served by a district that stays within Riverside

County." <http://www.mydesert.com/article/20110515/OPINION01/105150314/The-new-political-puzzle> -

On May 9, 2011 *The Desert Sun* wrote: "The 80th Assembly seat was specifically drawn as a so-called safe seat for Democrats. Cathedral City Councilman Greg Pettis was among those lobbying in - Sacramento, urging lawmakers to include his hometown in a district where registered Democrats far outnumbered Republicans. In a 2001 column for the Desert Sun, Pettis even argued the geographically strange 80th Assembly "makes sense on many levels."

The 80th Assembly is a prime example of Gerrymandering and why the voters of California supported a - measure to take the Redistricting process out of the hands of politicians and appoint an independent commission. -

It is essential to keep the entire Coachella Valley connected in both state and federal districts and entirely within Riverside County. If the lines are pushed into Imperial County much like the current 80th Assembly District, Agriculture will become the driving force for that seat's economy and hurt the Coachella Valley tourism. -

The 45th Congressional district is a good example of how districts should look. The district remains solely in Riverside County and maintains like interests amongst its constituents.

Below are reasons why the Coachella Valley districts should remain in Riverside County

Economy

- The Coachella Valley's top revenue source is tourism
- The Coachella Valley is a desert resort community that provides world class attractions: World Class Golf Resorts,-Major Golf Tournaments, The San Jacinto Santa Rosa Mountain National Monument, Joshua Tree National Park, Major Concerts such as *Coachella* and *StageCoach*, Casinos and The Palm Springs - International Film Festival just to name a few.
- Hotels, restaurants and retail all feed off of tourism and major events

Transportation

- The majority of the tourism industry is fed from either Palm Springs International Airport (PSP) or the I-10 from Los Angeles
- Palm Springs Airport now services over 1 million flights per year. A 3% increase during hard economic times (2010 CVEP Report)
- Car rentals in the Coachella Valley have increased by nearly \$700,000 in car rentals from 2009 to 2010 to total over \$32 million dollar revenue. (CVEP)
- Rail service to and from LA is important for Coachella Valley residents.

Healthcare

- The Coachella Valley and the Inland Empire have a first rate Healthcare system
- Healthcare in the Coachella Valley and Inland Empire continues to grow. Major hospitals such as Eisenhower, JFK, Betty Ford Center, Loma Linda all serve patients in the Inland area.
- The inland area has added over 5,000 healthcare jobs since 2007 despite the recession

Education

The Coachella Valley sites two major University satellite campuses. UC Riverside and Cal State San Bernardino both have campuses in the Coachella Valley. Its key to keep these universities connected with the rest of Riverside County and the Inland Empire.

The school districts in the Coachella Valley serve under the Riverside County

Energy

The majority of the Coachella Valley is served by Southern California Edison. Whereas Imperial County is served by Imperial Irrigation District.

Much of our energy feeds into Western Riverside County as the I-10 serves as a - transmission corridor -

Military

29 Palms Marine Base sits just north of the Coachella Valley. PSP provides transportation for incoming troops. Many troops are transported between 29 Palms and March Air Reserve Base for deployment.

- The Coachella Valley benefits from military servicemen who visit from 29 Palms

Past Funding

- major funding was delivered to the Coachella Valley to help increase its tourism with the building of a new airport tower as well as major construction to the I-10 fwy to deal with increased tourism

Governments -

The Riverside Economic Partnership has offices throughout -

Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) works side by side with the Western Riverside County of Governments (WRCOG) on various projects, funding, and other issues that affect Riverside County as a whole -

Many local city councilmembers work hand in hand with the Southern California - Association of Governments (SCAG). -

Media

Much of the Inland Area as well as the Coachella Valley depend on the LA media Market which includes the LA Times, LA TV and Radio.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Most Sincerely,

Barbara Beaty



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Office [REDACTED]

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