

**Subject: Redistricting****Date:** Sunday, May 22, 2011 7:58 AM**From:** Ginny Foat <[REDACTED]>**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** Redistricting

Dear Commissioners,

We in the Coachella Valley really appreciated your decision to hold hearings in the City of Palm Springs. It is usually commonplace that important meetings such as yours are held in Riverside making it very difficult for our citizens to have access or voice in decision making.

I have been a Council Member of the City of Palm Springs (a non partisan elected seat) since 2003. In that capacity I have experienced many common problems that affect both the Coachella Valley and Imperial County that both geographical areas have worked together to solve. In addition to the environmental disaster of the Salton Sea which we continue to work together to avert there are many other issues. We are both rural areas; we both have large Latino populations; we both will be equally affected and cut off from the rest of Riverside County when the big earthquake happens; we share the concerns and effects of commerce from Mexico on the I-10 corridor; we attend each other's festivals and ground breaking ceremonies and because of our close proximity we have family and friends that visit frequently. The Coachella Valley has far more in common with Imperial County than with the rest of Riverside over the hill.

Unfortunately you heard testimony from several people that look down on the citizens of Imperial County because their citizens may not share the same socioeconomic status as the Coachella Valley. While that fact may be public perception, prejudice it is certainly not a factor to be considered in drawing district lines. Certain area's in the Coachella Valley may have a higher standard of living than Imperial County but believe me that is not the case across the Valley. We need and deserve legislative representation that can address the problems of our areas and not representation that addresses the problems of large cities that are an hour drive away.

I urge you in designing the districts to follow the natural geographic boundaries created by the San Jacinto Mountains and the Santa Rosa Mountains. Those are our boundaries in how we view our fellow citizens in Imperial County and what naturally cuts us off from the rest of Riverside County.

Thank you,

Ginny Foat,  
City Council Member,  
City of Palm Springs

