

**Subject: Santa Clarita Valley**

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**From:** Brian Baker [REDACTED]

**To:** <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Brian Baker [REDACTED]

**Conversation:** Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Sirs;

I read today in our local newspaper, The Signal, a report on the tenor and actions of your committee regarding the reapportionment of our community as displayed at the recent public meetings. If what I've read is accurate ( <http://www.the-signal.com/section/33/article/44873/> ) -- and I have no reason to think it's not -- then I have to wonder what your real agenda is. Is this just more of the same old "incumbent protection plan" we've been stuck with for decades?

I bought my first house out here in 1983. That's almost three decades ago. This valley was pretty unpopulated; onion fields everywhere. Like most of the people moving in at the time, I was looking for an escape from the mess that was Los Angeles, with its crime, gangs, and ridiculously liberal politics. The Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) was the perfect escape. A community with traditional conservative American values in which it was safe to have a family and raise kids; a low crime rate; and fellow residents of like mind.

When the City of Santa Clarita was being formed, I voted in favor of incorporation, which was ultimately enacted. The city and unincorporated surrounding area have continued to grow, being one of the fastest-growing communities in the state. Yet we still consider ourselves a "small town", with all that implies. That sense of "community", particularly as we're one of the few remaining bastions of traditional conservatism in Los Angeles County.

Back in the day, we were unofficial sister cities to Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks (TO) and Ventura, fellow "conservative" areas, even sharing the same area code. But along the way, something happened. When the telephone area codes were realigned, we got cut out of the 805 system (Simi, Ventura and TO) and lumped in with the Antelope Valley in the newly-created 661 area code. That was very controversial at the time, as we don't consider ourselves a part of nor really related to the Antelope Valley (AV).

Now, from what I've read, you're considering gerrymandering this valley once again, with the SCV being relegated to second-tier status behind the AV, with portions of the SCV being included with portions of the San Fernando Valley.

Talk about putting the cart in front of the horse! What a classic example!

First of all, the SCV is a far more potent economic and demographic driver and entity than the AV. Why would anyone in their right mind consider breaking it up in favor of keeping a less potent and MUCH bigger geographical area (with a lesser population density) intact? That makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. As far as I can tell when I drive to Vegas, the AV is for the most part a whole lot of empty desert.

But more importantly, most of us moved out here to get away from the mess that is LA, including its liberal politics. Now you want to stick half of us back with those people in a reapportionment? Frankly, I find that whole idea repugnant and unacceptable. One of the main reasons we formed our own city out here was so that we wouldn't be subject to the whims of liberals as represented on the LA County Board of Supervisors or, more importantly, the city of LA.

If we're going to be aligned with anybody, you need to honor historical perspective and push the boundaries westward toward Simi, TO, and Ventura.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or issues you'd like to address.

Brian Baker

[REDACTED]  
Saugus, CA 91390

[REDACTED]