

**Subject: Public Comment: Don't swallow up Santa Clarita**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 18, 2011 12:31 PM

**From:** Alisan Amrhein [REDACTED]

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

**Conversation:** Public Comment: Don't swallow up Santa Clarita

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Subject: Don't swallow up Santa Clarita

Message Body:

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission,

Hello, my name is Alisan Amrhein and I'm a native of the City of Santa Clarita. I am writing to you today to discuss the Santa Clarita Valley and the northern portion of Los Angeles County as a whole.

First of all, I know that you've gotten a lot of arguments about what to do with Santa Clarita and who it should be linked with. Having lived there for over 15 years, I can tell you that we are most definitely distinct from the San Fernando Valley to the south. Although I have spent much time in the San Fernando Valley and understand that it's different from the Los Angeles Basin and portions of the City of Los Angeles located south of the Santa Monica Mountains, it's still considered "Los Angeles" to those of us living in Santa Clarita. There's not much that we have in common with residents of the Valley, with people living in communities such as Granada Hills, Porter Ranch, or Chatsworth. We are our own distinct city, with a population of over 175,000, and we are self-sufficient out of the orbit of the San Fernando Valley. When I was choosing a community college to attend, I did not even think of going to Pierce College or Valley College, both!

located in the San Fernando Valley; I went to College of the Canyons up here in Valencia. Santa Clarita is divided from the Valley by miles of open space; there's no continuous habitation. The Valley should be kept with districts also located there, not paired with Santa Clarita.

I know you are hesitant about crossing county lines, but I also know that Santa Clarita does not sustain enough population for its own district in Congress, State Senate, or the State Assembly. Rather than connecting us to any portion of the San Fernando Valley, I suggest that we're grouped with either eastern Ventura County or that you continue north and connect us with the northern parts of Los Angeles County, such as Palmdale, Lancaster, and other surrounding communities and cities such as Agua Dulce, Acton and Castaic. We do indeed have a great deal in common with residents living in the eastern Ventura County cities of Simi Valley, Moorpark, and Camarillo. Simi Valley and Moorpark have each had the distinction of being hailed as "America's Safest City" on separate occasions; Santa Clarita is also often near the top of the list. We share a small business mentality, and a desire to be out of the orbit of Los Angeles and retreat from the city lifestyle.

Please, when drawing your lines, protect Santa Clarita from being swallowed up by any portion of the City of Los Angeles, including the San Fernando Valley. Connect us with our brothers and sisters in communities that have much more in common with us, whether they're in Ventura County or north of us in our own county. Thank you.

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