

[REDACTED]

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**Subject: Public Comment: Redistricting for Ridgecrest**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 17, 2011 10:07 AM

**From:** Gary R. Burgner [REDACTED]

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

**Conversation:** Public Comment: Redistricting for Ridgecrest

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Subject: Redistricting for Ridgecrest

Message Body:

I am opposed to any redistricting plan that would combine Ridgecrest and surrounding rural area residents with urban areas south of roughly a line drawn through Palmdale and the south side of Barstow. The citizens of my area have more in common with the deserts from the Sierra crest all the way to Nevada and the Colorado River (including the vast military and other federal lands) than with the southern deserts, the LA basin, Inland Empire, or Kern County west of the Sierra Crest.

However, if there is not enough population in the high desert areas I describe to form a whole district, then the 22nd Congressional district now defined is a geometry that gives Ridgecrest reasonable representation, even though there are often disputes with the dominant west Kern County folks. Our major concern is that if we are combined with heavily urban areas to the south, we will lose representation of on issues related to the military missions and land-use in the high deserts and eastern Sierra areas.

Until and unless the high desert areas of east Kern County form a new county or otherwise dissociates itself from Kern County, it will be important that East Kern not be penalized by being subject to regulations and services under Kern County while being represented in Congress and the Assembly by different regulations and services.

I am equally concerned that redistricting does not involve gerrymandering that would allow political parties or their representatives to disregard minority issues within any district.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary R. Burgner

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