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Subject:Redistricting the Antelope Valley

Date:Sat, 28 May 2011 01:48:49 -0700 (PDT)

From:Erick Byarushengo <[REDACTED]>

To:[REDACTED]

Commissioner's,

I can only feel frustrated when I watched the video clip, Feed 3, of your meeting in Norco, to hear one of the commissioner's make an idea of placing the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale in two different Assembly District's. All a person has to do is actually visit the Antelope Valley like you did, to understand that that particular idea makes no sense what so ever. The thought of Palmdale being in a different district from me, a city which I interact with the people there every single day, makes me completely upset.

One thing you have to know is the history of the area. The cities of Lancaster and Palmdale have been in the same exact Assembly district since the 1970's. We get the same newspaper and listen off of the same local radio station's. We have own own transportation system called the Antelope Valley Transit Authority. We have the same exact issues when it comes to bringing water or other resources to our desert community.

I can understand being in the same Congressional district with Santa Clarita, but not the same Assembly district. The thought that when I drive down to the Los Angeles area, that I would be in my Assembly district, drive into Palmdale to be in a whole different district, then be back in my own district when I reach Santa Clarita, sounds downright weird. You will have either area or the other represented while the other will be ignored if the lines are drawn up the way you proposed back on May 5.

The same goes to Palmdale. Palmdale resident's hardly interact with people from Victorville. And the same issue goes here where one side will feel disenfranchised depending where that Assembly member lives. I can see Victor Valley being in the same Senate district as us though.

I understand that we don't have the population needed. However, there is something you all didn't look at by watching that clip. You forgot to look north into Kern County. I'm not talking about Ridgecrest, I believe that they should stay in the same district connected to Bakersfield. I'm talking about the communities south of Ridgecrest. The Kern County communities of Rosamond, Mojave,

Boron, and California City. Currently these communities I have just mentioned are part of the 34th Assembly District with the current Assembly member residing all the way up in Tulare. Putting the Kern County communities currently in the 34th Assembly district with us makes way more sense. One thing that needs to be realized is that the Antelope Valley is split into two different counties, Los Angeles and Kern. If you live in Rosamond and Mojave, you already do most is not all of your shopping in the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. Some people who live in the Los Angeles County part of the Valley work in Kern County at Edwards Air Force Base. We have our own elected water board the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency. Plus the community college in our area, Antelope Valley College, also includes the East Kern County communities that I have mentioned. You might want to look at the map for the college district boundary when you draw up this area. Also, if you were to look back at the video clip of the Lancaster meeting, there were speaker's from Rosamond who said that it would make sense to put the East Kern County communities in the same district as Lancaster and Palmdale. Living out here myself, I feel like it only makes sense to have it that way.

I completely understand that you guys have a difficult task ahead of you and I support you in doing this. I know that the released maps on June 10 won't be the official maps for the next ten years, and that you will be having two more drawings before it becomes official. But if I see the first drawings having the Antelope Valley split into different district's I will probably feel completely sick. I have been in favor of this commission because I was hoping that what I heard and saw in that video clip on feed 3 in Norco would not happen to this area at all. with all due respect to all of you, **I DO NOT WANT TO SEE THE ANTELOPE VALLEY GERRYMANDERED!!!! KEEP US IN ONE DISTRICT!!!!!!**

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Lancaster, CA
