

Subject: Redistricting Comments**Date:** Sunday, May 22, 2011 3:24 PM**From:** Brian Shiffman <[REDACTED]>**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** Redistricting Comments

Dear Redistricting Commission:

I appreciate your invitation to make comments regarding redistricting of California. I live and work in Salinas, CA. My district includes Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Counties. A proper redistricting of our area should include only Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. These two counties have more in common with each other than does Santa Cruz County. A large majority of Santa Cruz County residents work in Santa Clara County. Santa Cruz County has more common associations with the counties north of it. It is, in large part, a county that has closer ties to San Jose and the greater San Francisco Bay area. Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties have more common features in their large expanses of rural, agricultural land. While Santa Cruz County does have an agricultural industry, it is much smaller and continues to shrink. It does not have the vast expanses of rangeland and farmland that Monterey and San Luis Obispo County both share adjacent to each other. Likewise, both Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties share more intensified agricultural in their vineyard industries. Very similar, and large vineyard operations are found in both of these counties. Both counties have a much larger population of people who work for hourly wages producing products in manufacturing and agricultural type businesses than does Santa Cruz County. Agriculture provides a much larger job base in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties than it does in Santa Cruz County.

I have lived in Salinas for 25 years. There has definitely been a noticeable change in the industry and demographics of Santa Cruz County versus Monterey County. There is less commonality between the two counties today than there were 25 years ago. The citizens of Monterey County would be better served and more fairly represented at the State and Federal levels if they were paired only with San Luis Obispo County.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit my comments on this very important issue. I look forward to a fair and impartial redistricting process that maintains only the highest standards of honesty based on what is in the best interest of the citizens of California.

Best regards,

Brian Shiffman
Salinas, CA