

Subject: 052311 - My personal input for redistricting in California.

From: Liz Silva <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 16:26:07 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

State Redistricting Panel:

I was raised and continue to live in Gonzales, a small community in the middle of Monterey County surrounded by lush fields of produce and many vineyards that fill our hillsides. I currently serve on the Gonzales City Council & Redevelopment Agency, Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority Board, as well as several other local non-profit boards.

Personally, I would prefer that the redistricting panel consider re-drawing its lines to include Monterey and San Luis Obispo (*keeping San Benito*) counties and exclude Santa Cruz County from our district, as I believe that since our counties (*Monterey, and SLO*) share the same water source, both are along the Central Coast, and both have more rural agricultural communities with similar demographics this would mean that our community needs would be more aligned than those with Santa Cruz County, in my opinion.

Our local transit district (MST) has just expanded its service to include a line from Fort Hunter Liggett to Paso Robles, and it's become very popular in the short time that it's been in service. Personally, my husband and I prefer to attend more functions and events in the SLO County, and seldom venture to the Santa Cruz County.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Silva

[REDACTED] Gonzales CA 93926
[REDACTED]

Subject: Testamony re: Redistricting for Monterey County

From: "Gloria Garrettson" <g. [REDACTED]>

Date: Sun, 22 May 2011 23:21:57 -0700

To: < [REDACTED]>

CC: <g. [REDACTED]>

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 22, 2011

Fax: (916) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Commission Members:

As a citizen and resident of Monterey County, I am very interested in the redistricting process currently underway in Monterey and surrounding counties. The Commission's work is important to us all, and I would appreciate your consideration of the many commonalities that encompass Monterey County and San Luis Obispo County in the district line determination.

1. Agricultural industry is a significant common factor throughout Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties which are also linked by the Highway 101 transportation corridor.
2. Water use of Monterey County and San Luis County, particularly in agricultural use is in common with Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio reservoirs.
3. Fishing industries are historic in Monterey Bay and Morro Bay regions
4. The Military community within the two county region includes: Naval Post Graduate School, Defense Language Institute, Fort Hunter Liggett, Camp Roberts, and Vandenburg Air Force Base.
5. Higher education colleges of CSU Monterey Bay, Cal Poly State University, Cuesta and others are top choices for students' attending from this agricultural region of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Please take these considerations into account of the important common links between Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, when formulating districts that will maintain representation and the community of interests shared by both counties.

Sincerely,

Gloria G. Garrettson

[REDACTED] Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Ph: 831- [REDACTED] / Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

May 23, 2011

Ricki Brodie

[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, CA 92211
[REDACTED]

Gentlepeople,

I am a resident of Palm Desert, CA. I know the Coachella Valley very well and would like to share some information with you.

Why not take a drive and visit towns like Coachella, Mecca, and Thermal? See how agriculture dominates these communities and surrounding areas.

As you take a drive in Coachella Valley you will see thousands of acres of crops growing in the sun. As you pass to Imperial County you will see a continuation of these growing fields – there is no ending of the agriculture as you pass the county border – just a continuation the huge agriculture business from one county to another.

Although this region is a desert, with high temperatures and low average rainfall of three inches per year, the economy is heavily based on agriculture due to irrigation in the valley, which gives us a year-round growing season. The Coachella and Imperial valleys' agricultural miracle (also called "Magic Valley") is due in part to irrigation, an underground aquifer from the era when the valley was under a fresh water lake in the last ice age (over 10,000 years ago), and the All-American Canal completed in the late 1940s which brought large supplies of water from the Colorado River.

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Letter from Ricki Brodie

As you continue driving in the desert you will come to towns like Brawley, and Imperial. Notice their similarity to the towns of Coachella, Mecca, and Thermal.

The towns are similar to the Coachella Valley because of their dependence on agriculture, and the ethnic make-up of their populations. Both counties are part of the Great Southwest Desert. They are one area.

Sincerely,

Ricki Brodie

Subject: Redistricting

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 19:12:04 +0000 (UTC)

To: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Renard Appraisal Company

Martha Renard

[REDACTED]

Salinas, California 93908

[REDACTED]

Fax

Cell

May 23,

2011

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission

I'm writing in reference to the Redistricting of Monterey, Santa Cruz and part of San Luis Obispo Counties. I have been a resident of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties for over 30 years, have been a real estate appraiser in this county for over 25 years and have owned my own business for over 20 years. I understand these counties, their needs and what laws affect these two counties. It is very critical to consider the interests and dynamics of these counties being very different. San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties are more agricultural based. They share more community interests which include agricultural water resources, military influences, the hospitality industry, the Highway 101 corridor and the Big Sur coastline. Our leaders and representatives need to have the best interest of the communities as they make bills, plan our future and directly affect our livelihoods and our future. Santa Cruz County has quite a different dynamics with more youth, students, and beach influences. Their needs are very different from Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. While a representative can keep all the needs of the counties in mind, often a vote will help one and adversely affect the other. I urge you to keep this in mind and please determine the districts for Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties as one and Santa Cruz County as an entirely separate district.

Thank you. Respectfully submitted.

Martha Renard

Renard Appraisal Company

[REDACTED] Salinas, California 93908

fax

cell

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Email: [REDACTED]
Via Facsimile: (916) [REDACTED]

Dear Commission Members:

For 13 years I have supported my family by working for two different integrated manufacturers that make corrugated containers for the agricultural industry. Like so many others I live on the Monterey Peninsula and I commute to the Salinas Valley for work.

Monterey County and San Luis Obispo County should be joined to comprise a new congressional district that supports the rich type of agricultural heritage we share. Both counties:

- Are predominately rural and overwhelming dependant on agriculture
- Share water from the same water source, the Salinas River.
- Have similar types of agricultural crops (row crops, cattle ranching, wine grapes, lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, celery, spinach, tomatoes, avocados, citrus trees). Certainly not all agriculture is similar, Santa Cruz grows a lot of brussels sprouts, have different water source and their crops require different cultural practices than that grown in Monterey or SLO counties.
- Because crops are similar or the same we have similar agricultural labor needs and similar agricultural support industries,
- Share a growing wine tourism corridor.
- Share the Highway 101 corridor, a main artery through the Central Coast.
- Share recreational activities at Lake San Antonio and Lake Nacimiento (that is part of the Salinas River aquifer).
- Vast majority of students who seek higher education in agriculture go to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo or even Cuesta Junior College both are located in San Luis Obispo County.
- Those who live in South Monterey County shop in Paso Robles area or send their children to school in Paso.

In fact Monterey County has more in common (because of the similar type of farming) with Santa Maria to the south than with Santa Cruz County to the north.

The rural agricultural communities need to have a strong voice so that we can continue to farm and produce a reliable food supply for our country. For so many years the agricultural community has had its voice drowned out by the folks in Santa Cruz County who would rather see agricultural fields go back to unused open space and they have demanded more and more government regulation on farmers and ranchers, unfortunately driving many farmers/ranchers out of business.

Please keep our agricultural communities together so our agricultural way of life is protected and promoted.

Sincerely,

John R Huston
Business Unit Sales Manager
Smurfit Stone Container Corporation

[REDACTED]
Salinas, Ca 93901
[REDACTED]

- 1. WATER**—both counties share the Salinas River Basin, a 170 mile-long river that originates in the foothills 20 miles east of the City of San Luis Obispo and flows along the 101 corridor out to the Monterey Bay by Marina. The Salinas River drains 4,160 square miles of ground. Two man-made lakes, Lakes San Antonio and Nacimiento, were built by Salinas Valley growers to control flooding in the Salinas Valley and to provide valuable irrigation water for farming. The largest city on the central coast is Salinas, its' economic base is agriculture and agriculture is the biggest employer in Monterey County. Without the Salinas River Basin both counties would become economically and physically a dust bowl.

The environmental battles over water restriction in the Central Valley show the importance of water to growers, farm workers, agricultural support industry and rural communities up and down the San Joaquin Valley. Look at the unemployment rate in the San Joaquin Valley and you can see that access to

water is life and death to agricultural communities and our food supply. It is imperative that our elective representatives understand the importance of the Salinas River Basin to both Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, in particular to the agricultural industry and to those residents who live and work here.

- 2. AGRICULTURE**—Because of water and climate, most all of Monterey and San Luis Obispo communities are rural and agriculturally based and many are dependant the Salinas River Basin. Agriculture particularly here in California has been under assault by more and more government regulations that has driven many farmers out of business or go farm in other countries like Mexico, Chile or even China where regulations are almost non-existent and production cost are far cheaper. That foreign produce is then imported into the USA in increasing amounts. In order for this country to be able to feed itself we have to start supporting our rural-agricultural base; if we fail to do so, we will become dependent on foreign food just like we are now dependent on foreign oil. We cannot stress enough the importance of having safe food supply to our national security.
- 3. SIMILAR COMMUNITIES**—because the communities along the 101 corridor are rural they each have active youth programs like 4H and FFA. If you are a high school student interested in higher education in agriculture your first choice is Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Davis or even Fresno State because of their agricultural programs. Because Cal Poly is so impacted many agricultural bound students from this area go to Cuesta Junior College in the City of San Luis hoping that their two-year degree will open the door to Cal Poly. In the last few years our local State University here at Monterey Bay has started to recognize the importance of agriculture and has geared more of its programs to fit that need for the students from Monterey County.
- 4. WINE TOURISM INDUSTRY** unites both Monterey County and San Luis Obispo Counties. No doubt the wine and tourism industry has been growing in leaps and bounds adding vast amounts of revenue to both.
- 5. LAKES NACIMINTO AND LAKE SAN ANTONIO TOURISM** impacts both counties because of the recreational opportunities. Paso Robles is the gateway to both lakes for folks coming from the east and south. Monterey County also owes the marina on Lake Naciminto.

In closing, the Salinas River Watershed is the lifeblood of both Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties and they share the same water source, agricultural job base, the 101 corridor, similar rural communities, types of tourism jobs, and recreational opportunities. Some would argue that because Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties share the Monterey Bay these two counties should be joined into one district. Yes Monterey County has a slice of the Monterey Bay, but its heritage, economic viability, social structure is dominantly rural and agricultural and does not rely on the Monterey Bay for its economic strength. Furthermore Santa Cruz County's interests are strikingly different than Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. Santa Cruz's emphasis is on high tech sharing that interest with Silicon Valley, and it is a support community for UCSC. That university has nothing in common with agriculture preferring to graduate activist not agronomists. Ask the once vibrant fishing industry in the Monterey Bay how well environmental activism worked for them.

Please consider combining the Monterey County with San Luis Obispo for a new agricultural based district that stresses the value of the rich water resource and rural agricultural communities that we share.

Sincerely,

Melanie Horwath

Subject: Redistricting commission

From: Teresa Wallace <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 11:57:47 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

Citizen's Redistricting Commission--The whole of Salinas Valley and its Salad Bowl agriculture base does in no way parallel or have interests similar to that of Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk based economy.

Subject: Public Comment: west san gabriel valley

From: jeff schwartz <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 18:52:37 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: jeff schwartz <[REDACTED]>

Subject: west san gabriel valley

Message Body:

please keep the the cities of monterey park, alhambra, rosemead, together as much as possible. we have a lot in common.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: suggestions for redistricting for Monterey County area

From: Mary Jo Zenk <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 14:59:07 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Mary Jo Zenk <[REDACTED]>

Subject: suggestions for redistricting for Monterey County area

Message Body:

My suggestions for redistricting. Keep in mind that the Monterey, Santa Cruz & San Benito counties operate as one economic region and the legislative districts should reflect that and not separate them.

1) For Congressional District 17 - Focus on including all three counties -- Reduce southern Santa Clara County area to the areas with agriculture from the district. Northern San Luis Obispo is closer in economic interests to southern Monterey County - both for agriculture and the coast. But Morgan Hill and Gilroy have a close relationship to San Benito and Salinas due to agriculture and Highway 101 traffic corridor - lots of commuters between southern Santa Clara county and the counties of San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey.

2) State senate districts

CA 15 - focus on the coastal areas of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Luis Obispo.

CA 12 - focus on the agricultural areas of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito and either southern Santa Clara county (Morgan Hill, Gilroy) or northern San Luis Obispo (Camp Roberts).

3) State assembly districts

AD 27 - focus on coastal areas - take out Santa Clara counties - go further down coast south of Big Sur

AD 28 - focus on agriculture areas of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Could include the southern area of Santa Clara counties (Morgan Hill and Gilroy) and the northern part of San Luis Obispo.

Board of Equalization - make sure Central California is not split up. It is a region that is different from the Bay area and from Southern California. Include the Central Valley with the Central Coast which would reflect the agricultural and more rural base in the state.

I believe that focusing on the districts from this economic interest perspective will also not dilute the Latino population. Most of them are in the agricultural regions.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate. I wish you all the best in this important task.

Best wishes.
Mary Jo Zenk

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Monterey County

From: Brian Higgins <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 07:43:21 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

Please make Monterey County's district more centralized - combine us with SLO county instead of drawing our district 100's of miles north and south, or gerrymandered over to Merced... Thank you.

Brian Higgins
Salinas, CA

Subject: Letter for Comment to the Citizens Redistricting Commission

From: "Bob Beck" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sun, 22 May 2011 22:56:21 -0700

To: "Citizens Redistricting Commission" <[REDACTED]>

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission,

Attached is my letter for your consideration. It is also copied below in case you would prefer it in an email instead of a standalone attachment. Thank you for accepting emails in the process.

Bob

Robert N. Beck
Beck Consulting Group LLC
[REDACTED] (Office)
[REDACTED] (Cell)
[REDACTED] (Fax)

Linking Culture to Strategy

Robert N. Beck

[REDACTED]
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

May 22, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission

1130 K Street, Suite 101

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commission Members:

As a landowner for over 25 years I am pleased to see that you have accepted the responsibility to address the needed changes in redistricting to ensure better alignment of voter districts as required in the California Constitution. As you know, over the years our geographic area has changed and now this is a time to recognize those changes.

I believe the population, culture, jobs, business focus and education in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties have developed a homogenous linkage. This is reflected in the strong focus in the two counties on agriculture and tourism. While Santa Cruz County has looked northward and developed a strong orientation to high technology with strong links to the Silicon Valley and Santa Clara County. This can readily be seen in the educational courses offered and the predominate jobs available. Courses that relate to jobs in agriculture are very different than the high tech jobs. In addition, the rapid growth of the wine industry and its related tourism is very strong in Monterey and San Luis Obispo today.

While some would argue that the geographic coverage of the Monterey and San Luis Obispo county combination is too large to cover, that actually is understandable and the point I am making. The development and production of farm, vegetable, flowers and wine crops requires thousands of acres of open space that is not available in quantity in Santa Cruz County. Today, transportation systems as well as advanced communications systems make coverage of the proposed territory very workable for an elected official. When one considers the flow of tourist through the various wineries, they typically start in the Monterey/Salinas area and work their way south to Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo. They don't drive north unless they are going to a very different experience of factory outlets, other forms of shopping, sightseeing or mountainous park atmosphere.

The citizens of Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties would benefit greatly if you can make these adjustments. Such a combination would very much enhance the ability of their representatives at all levels to work together on common issues and concerns. The complexities of agricultural issues in King City and Atascadero are so different than high technology issues of high tech centers like Scotts Valley and San Jose. In the end, the changes will enhance the State of California as a place to do business by focusing common industry needs by our representatives. Today, a representative has to try to grasp multiple industries in a more complex world by knowing a little about each instead of the needed deep knowledge to be most effective. We must stop the loss of jobs and be able to attract new jobs to each of these areas. Taking these considerations into account as you complete the very important work of redistricting is critical to our future.

Thank you for holding the hearings and accepting our written comments.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Beck

Robert N. Beck

Monterey County Resident

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