

MICKIE SOLORIO LUNA

[REDACTED] Hollister, CA 95023
[REDACTED]

MAY 23, 2011

TO: CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

**FROM: MICKIE SOLORIO LUNA
HOLLISTER, CA. SAN BENITO COUNTY**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in writing after making a personal presentation before you last night in San Jose, CA.

I am a native of Hollister, CA, San Benito County, born and raised in this community in a family of 12 children to immigrant parents from Mexico. I have been an activist of this community and for statewide organizations for over 35 years and can attest to the issues and concerns of the Latino community.

Serving on statewide and national boards of Latino organizations, I am well aware of the issues that impact us on a daily life. We are recognized as a large voting block as Latinos proved that during the last November elections, and we will again prove our voting strength in future elections.

In regards to my community of San Benito County, our county population is 56.43 Latino, the City of Hollister is 66% Latino. Our community is a rural agricultural community, 11% is under the poverty level. The unemployment rate is over the national rate.

Our population reflects that 70% of the Latino population are young adults, which enforces the need to keep education as a top level issue. We need to assure our young people an opportunity for higher education and within the area of Hollister, Salinas, Watsonville, our needs seem similar and educational facilities are in the area where our students can attend. Transportation is crucial for students to be able to attend these schools. Transportation for health services to include our veterans who are in dire need of assistance and transportation to the Seaside clinic, formerly Fort Ord.

Several concerns including affordable housing, bilingual education, health issues, immigrant rights, employment opportunities are shared with area communities and together we can continue to work to better our communities.

I personally urge your consideration to keep the Hollister, San Juan Bautista, Salinas, Castroville, Salinas, Watsonville communities in tact with each other, we have a lot in common and we work together collaborative in assuring our community interest remain to be addressed by legislative bodies.

Thank you.

MICKIE SOLORIO LUNA

[REDACTED] Hollister, CA 95023
[REDACTED]