

Subject: REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY**Date:** Friday, May 20, 2011 7:53 PM**From:** [REDACTED]**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY

May 20, 2011

Dear Members of the CA. Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I write you to request the inclusion of the City of Watsonville in the same Senate District as the City of Salinas. Watsonville is 20 miles North of Salinas. Watsonville and Salinas form a community of interests. I am a sixty-three year old native of Watsonville and am very familiar with the community of interests that are shared by both Watsonville and Salinas. I currently am in my 19th year as a Trustee for the Governing Board of Cabrillo Community College where we must also redistrict. I also am the Chair of the Watsonville City Redistricting Committee.

Watsonville is located at the southern most area of Santa Cruz County. Currently the city is located in Senate District 15. This district includes San José which is in the Silicon Valley. Watsonville has absolutely no community of interest with the Silicon Valley which is technology based. Watsonville's employment is primarily in agriculture. We have 55,000 acres devoted to agriculture and timber. The majority of residents are farm workers, who speak Spanish, and are low-income. The schools the children attend are Program Improvement schools as defined by No Child Left Behind. The families often do not have insurance and get medical care from a free medical clinic. These characteristics are specific to the characteristics of Salinas. Salinas also is agriculture based with similar farm worker population characteristics as described for Watsonville. Watsonville and Salinas have the same community of interests.

Additional community of interests which are more general are that Salinas and Watsonville are in the same water district. Salinas and Watsonville are both represented on the Association of Monterey Bay Area Government (AMBAG). And Salinas and Watsonville are in the same media market. The radio and television stations for Salinas are also heard and viewed in Watsonville.

Watsonville and Salinas meet the criteria to form a community of interests. Legislatively together we can address issues of farm labor, education, and health care. In the same Senate District we can support each other in making decisions for the betterment of both communities. Please place Watsonville in the same Senate District as Salinas.

Respectfully,

Rebecca J. García, Chair
Watsonville Redistricting Committee
Trustee Cabrillo College