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**Subject: Testimony for Salinas Hearing**

**Date:** Sunday, May 22, 2011 1:48 PM

**From:** Howsoonisnow1985 <[REDACTED]>

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

**Conversation:** Testimony for Salinas Hearing

Felipe Hernandez

[REDACTED]  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
[REDACTED]

Dear Members of the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission:

My name is Felipe Hernandez. I am a 39 year resident of Watsonville (Pajaro Valley) community of interest. I went to all local schools including EA Hall Middle School, Watsonville High School and UC Santa Cruz. I'm very actively involved with Watsonville's community issues. I am currently a Planning Commissioner and have worked with Labor for the last 10 years. I'm a veteran of the US Army, served in Desert Storm, and a member of both American Legion and Veteran's of Foreign Wars. Thank you for the opportunity to let you know about our community of interest, based in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, including its proposed boundaries of South Santa Clara, Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County and the eastward boundary of Highway 5. I am here because I care about my community and I am concerned about being fairly represented for the next ten years.

Our community of interest is located within the tri-county areas of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. And its current South Santa Clara boundary and proposed southern boundary not to exceed south of Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County, including its eastern boundary not to exceed east of Highway 5.

Our community of interest has these characteristics they are: working class, concentrated poverty, Latino and immigrant populations and agricultural based farming economy (as opposed to grazing or dairy farming) The ideal COI is keep Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties or Tri-County together.

During the housing boom the Tri-County area was a bedroom community for both Santa Clara County and within its boundaries as well ie: those who could not afford Santa Cruz moved to Watsonville, Hollister or the Salinas Valley. Those who could not afford Watsonville moved to Salinas Valley. With the economic downturn, the tri-county area not only shared a high foreclosure rate but a high unemployment rate.

Even our television media market's boundaries are comprised of the Tri-County area. When we watch our local news it is about our local neighboring towns comprised of the Tri-County area.

Our workforce in agriculture and service industry is shared throughout the Tri-County area. Many of Watsonville's residents work in the agriculture industry throughout the Salinas Valley and vice-versa.

In terms of the boundaries, we should not exceed south of Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County. It is the last of the cities on the 101 corridor that is frequented by Salinas Valley residents. And it is one of the last cities along the 101 corridor that has agricultural based farming.

The eastern boundary line should not exceed the Highway 5. While, I would be more comfortable for it not to exceed San Benito County, the Highway 5 provides a good natural line. The agriculture business is different than that of the tri-county area, in

that the tri-county ag is more labor intensive farming as opposed to the cattle/livestock/graze farming. There is no shared community from the Tri-County region to the Central Valley.

Again we recommend: To keep the Tri-County communities of interest whole and not to exceed Paso Robles in the South or Highway 5 in to the East. Thank you very much.

Felipe Hernandez

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Watsonville, CA 95076  
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