



Rebeca Villafaña

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Santa Cruz, CA 95062
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California Redistricting Commission
1130 K. Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Keeping Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties in the same Congressional District

Honorable Commissioners:

I have lived in the County of Santa Cruz for the past 10 years. I am writing to request that the CRC keep Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties together as a community of interest under State and Federal Districts, for the purpose of its effectiveness and fair representation.

The common social and economic interests shared by these three counties are met in a variety of ways, including their agriculture and tourism based economy, regional community agencies, transportation services, and accessibility to media for all three counties. Our three counties are separated by mountainous areas from other counties; and, their waters flow into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

In addition, these three counties make up our local Council of Governments known as the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. Within the control district for regional water pollution and air board you can find the three counties. Many civic groups provide services to people in the three counties as well.

Another factor in this community of interest is its sector with the largest employment industry being agriculture. Specialty crops are grown continuously throughout the year, and in these counties the labor force is permanent with agriculture workers living in the coastal area and being long-term employees, not temporary laborers.

The tri-county region also shares media markets unique to them as they are separated by mountains from other counties. When looking for public venues through which advertise their companies, or candidates for office, our local media is there to give its audience the most comprehensive federal, state, and local coverage. Advertisers looking to reach our Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties place commercial with our local broadcasters, and never with San Jose or San Francisco.

Maintaining our tri-county region is of great importance to us, constituents, as we share the same news media markets, small town economics, our environmental oversight and tourism flow through and within each of our three counties. Through the years we have come to rely on each other's transportation systems to ensure the effective delivery of our crops, as well as the lodging of tourists.

In order to work well, it is vital for us to remain united as a community of interest, willing to continue our tri-county cooperation and collaboration to make our counties more efficient, environmentally friendly, and politically fair.

We urge you to keep our community of interest intact under one Congressional District in order to strengthen and unite our voices, which in turn can speak to our elected officials in the State legislature and in Congress, so that we can create a better life for our families.

Thank you for your consideration.

~Rebeca Villafaña

