

**Subject:** Public Comment: 1 - Imperial

**From:** Everardo Cervantes <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 18:50:24 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Everardo Cervantes <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Imperial County

Message Body:

Dear Commissioners,

As an Imperial County resident and voter, I am concerned about the current draft maps you have drawn for the Congressional, State Senate and State Assembly districts for our region.

Last month during your first round of public comment input hearings you received numerous requests, both in writing and in-person, to keep the Imperial and Coachella Valleys as one contiguous community of interest. Similarly, you also received requests from members of the Eastern San Diego Communities asking to Not be included in a district which includes us here in Imperial County. After reviewing the drafts released on June 10th, it is clear to me that our voices were once again not heard.

Imperial County shares many common interests with Eastern Riverside County and all those of us who live here or even those who have visited the Southeast Desert, would attest to this. Our population's characteristics and cultures are closely tied, our economies are closely linked, and we share many similar challenges such as; The Salton Sea and its restoration efforts, The New River and its threat to public health, poor Air Quality due to high particulate matter in our shared air basin, and limited options for higher educational institutions (no CSU or UC main campuses).

Similarly, both Valleys also share many positive attributes which include; vast natural resources which have already put us on the map as the hub for Renewable Energy generation potential, Enterprise Zones and other incentive programs for businesses, shared service territory in the Imperial Irrigation District (public utility company), agricultural based economies which have provided jobs to local farmworkers, shared waterways and canals, and deep cultural ties between families in both Valleys.

We deserve representation at the Federal and State level that takes into account the needs of our desert community and does not simply lump us with San Diego only because we share the U.S.-Mexico Border. Furthermore, this Commission has an opportunity to embolden our Congressional delegation by assigning two representatives to the U.S.-Mexico Border rather than keeping the status-quo. The current district draft maps will disenfranchise our communities and continue to keep us in the shadows of our large urban communities to the west. Please reconsider your initial draft maps and keep Imperial County and East Riverside County in the same State and Federal districts.

Sincerely,  
Everardo Cervantes

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Redistricting 2011

**From:** Alexander Behzadi <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 11:11:06 -0500

**To:** [REDACTED]

Greetings! After you published your first set of draft maps, this commission asked California citizens to weigh in and give suggestions on how to finalize the maps and boundaries.

There are few portions of the draft maps that I believe need to be acknowledged.

- First, the proposed boundaries for the congressional district comprising Imperial County include a slice into the southern San Diego area. In my humble opinion, the rural farming areas of Imperial County, which contain no large cities and only contains small towns with populations of less than 50,000 individuals, should not contain a slice into the urban San Diego area. To preserve the community of interest, I believe that Imperial County should be joined with more rural portions of Riverside County and San Diego County.
- Another pressing concern is of the urban and suburban areas of San Diego County. In the current districts, several suburban areas, such as Coronado and Chula Vista, are paired with more urban areas in the center of the city. This is not a sensible idea, since the suburban communities are outnumbered by the more urban constituents, then their interests will not be represented. My suggestion would be to combine most of urban San Diego into one district and join the suburban areas to the two other suburban districts surrounding San Diego.
- The next point concerns the Los Angeles area. In the proposed map, certain affluent portions of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties are paired with middle and lower class areas, solely based on geographic and racial patterns. This is ill-advised namely because economic concerns are more important to keep contiguous than other demographic factors. The affluent populations of northern Los Angeles County should not be paired with the more urban areas such as Pomona and Glendale. Also, the coastal areas of Rancho Palos Verdes and Long Beach should have their own district, separate of the areas of Torrance and areas north of Long Beach. To summarize, economic similarities should have a higher priority than racial and geographic issues.
- My next issue concerns coastal Los Angeles County and Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The economies and demographics of the coastal towns (such as Malibu, Oxnard and Santa Barbara) are completely different than inland towns (such as Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks). The coastal areas are more affluent with tourism as a major industry, while inland areas are more middle class and more industrial. My belief is that the interest of the coastal areas should be separated from the inland areas. My proposal would be to place the coastal areas of Ventura County with western Santa Barbara County and include parts of San Luis Obispo County and/or the coastal areas around Malibu to meet population requirements. The inland areas of Ventura County and

eastern Santa Barbara County should be combined with northwestern parts of Los Angeles County and parts of the southwestern areas of Kern County to preserve their economic and demographic similarities.

- Another issue is the southern San Joaquin Valley. This area is one of the most fertile farming regions in the United States. Areas such as northern Kern County, Kings County and western Fresno County depend on agriculture. The economic interest of these areas contrast sharply with the urban and suburban areas around Bakersfield and Fresno. The congressional district comprising of the aforementioned counties has long tendrils snaking into urban Bakersfield and Fresno to combine them with the agricultural areas. I believe this is a major travesty. My proposal would be to place the rural areas in one district and place the urban areas of Fresno and Bakersfield into the district that are comprised mostly of urban and suburban areas to the east and the south. This would unite the communities of interest and allow the farming areas of the San Joaquin Valley not to be overlooked by the urban centers dominating the district.
- Another region of pressing concern is the San Francisco exurbs, namely San Joaquin County. San Joaquin County is composed of one large city, Stockton. The rest of the county is mostly semi-rural areas similar to that of Stanislaus County to the south. The proposed district map shifts San Joaquin County to urban areas in eastern Contra Costa County. To preserve the community of interest, I believe that San Joaquin County should remain wholly in a district of its own and, if it needs more population, then it should be included in other exurban/rural areas to the north or south. In addition, I am concerned about the Bay Area Counties of Contra Costa, Alameda, and Santa Clara. Each of these counties has major urban centers along the coast of San Francisco Bay and suburban areas further inland. To meet the interests of the residents, I believe that these suburban areas should be in districts separate from the more urbanized areas along the Bay.
- My final issue concerns northern California. The proposed map places several San Francisco and Sacramento exurban areas with rural inland areas to the north. I believe that this would not serve the communities well. It would be better for the residents of northern California to keep the San Francisco exurbs from Solano County to Marin County in its own district while keeping the coastal areas from Sonoma County to Del Norte County in a different district. The rest of northern California, namely the inland areas, could keep its two-district configuration, which would serve the interest of the communities there.

Regards,

Alex Behzadi

**Subject:** DO NOT INCLUDE IMPERIAL COUNTY IN REDISTRICTING

**From:** monica terrazas <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 16:05:58 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

June 24, 2011

Dear Commissioners,

As an Imperial County resident and voter, I am concerned about the current draft maps you have drawn for the Congressional, State Senate and State Assembly districts for our region.

Last month during your first round of public comment input hearings you received numerous requests, both in writing and in-person, to keep the Imperial and Coachella Valleys as one contiguous community of interest. Similarly, you also received requests from members of the Eastern San Diego Communities asking to **not** be included in a district which includes us here in Imperial County . After reviewing the drafts released on June 10<sup>th</sup>, it is clear to me that our voices were once again not heard.

Imperial County shares many common interests with Eastern Riverside County and all those of us who live here or even those who have visited the Southeast Desert would attest to this. Our population's characteristics and cultures are closely tied, our economies are closely linked, and we share many similar challenges such as; the Salton Sea and its restoration efforts, the New River and its threat to public health, poor air quality due to high particulate matter in our shared air basin, and limited options for higher educational institutions (no CSU or UC main campuses).

Similarly, both Valley's also share many positive attributes which include; vast natural resources which have already put us on the map as the hub for Renewable Energy generation potential, Enterprise Zones and other incentive programs for businesses, shared service territory in the Imperial Irrigation District (public utility company), agricultural based economies which have provided jobs to local farmworkers, shared waterways and canals, and deep cultural ties between families in both Valleys.

We deserve representation at the Federal and State level that takes into account the needs of our desert community and does not simply lump us with San Diego only because we share the U.S.-Mexico Border. Furthermore, this Commission has an opportunity to embolden our California Congressional delegation by assigning two representatives to the U.S.-Mexico Border rather than keeping the status-quo. The current district draft maps will disenfranchise our communities and continue to keep us in the shadows of our large urban communities to the west. Please reconsider your initial draft and listen to the request of Imperial County residents.

Sincerely,

MONICA TERRAZAS, [REDACTED], El Centro, CA 92243

**Subject:** Public Comment: 1 - Imperial

**From:** Everardo Cervantes <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 18:50:24 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Everardo Cervantes <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Imperial County

Message Body:

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Sincerely,  
Everardo Cervantes

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**Subject:** Public Comment: 1 - Imperial

**From:** Antonio Ortega <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 17:49:15 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Antonio Ortega <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Imperial County

Message Body:

Dear Commissioners,

I write you today on behalf of not only myself but also my family, all longtime residents of Imperial County. As you redraw our State and Federal districts, it is extremely important that you please consider the Southeast desert region as one. Under the current draft maps you have proposed our county is included with the San Diego County. As a result, our financial resources and public policy priorities are often overshadowed by the large population numbers and affluent communities west of Imperial County.

Today, our entire State of California is represented by solely one Congressional district which has ultimately resulted in limited representation to our border community. Imperial County has especially been neglected in this area as we have seen our International Port of Entry in Calexico lose funding time and time again to our neighboring San Diego County. In contrast to our sole representative at the Federal level, the State of Texas has a Congressional delegation of 8 members who can lobby for their regions more effectively.

Furthermore, Imperial County and the entire East Riverside County also share important environmental concerns, natural resources, transportation corridors, and population characteristics which make us a closely aligned region. In the past two years, Imperial County and the Eastern Riverside County desert have seen a surge in development and potential interest from developers who wish to build out renewable energy generation plants here. This new industry will bring much needed job growth to our regions and policymakers, workforce development boards, and businesses in both Valleys have begun to coordinate with one another so we build partnerships that are mutually beneficial.

The Salton Sea, Colorado River, and New River are also important shared priorities/concerns which must be protected and ultimately prioritized by our State and Federal representatives.

Ultimately, I believe that our State Senate District (40th) and Congressional District (51st) should more closely resemble what the State Assembly (80th) district currently represents. Please consider the similarities between median incomes, unemployment rates, education levels, and ethnic makeup of population, as much as you will consider our shared public policy priorities when you release the 2nd draft maps on July 14th.

Thank You.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

6/23/11

Commissioners:

I have seen the first proposed map for our district and I'm very pleased to see that Imperial County was not included. Thank you for taking the time of listening to the residents of the Coachella Valley and making the best decisions for our area. We need strong representation from our local, state, and federal representatives, and I'm sure by keeping the proposed district map, we will receive it.

Thank you,

Christopher Malmberg



Indio, CA 92203

**Subject:** Public Comment from Imperial County

**From:** Becky Terrazas <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 10:58:34 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

As an Imperial County resident and voter, I am concerned about the current draft maps you have drawn for the Congressional, State Senate and State Assembly districts for our region.

After reviewing the drafts released on June 10th, I am very concerned about the lack of representation Imperial County residents will have if the lines stay drawn that link us to Eastern San Diego County.

Imperial County shares many common interests with Eastern Riverside County and all those of us who live here or even those who have visited the Southeast Desert would attest to this. Our population's characteristics and cultures are closely tied, our economies are closely linked, and we share many similar challenges such as; the Salton Sea and its restoration efforts, the New River and its threat to public health, poor air quality due to high particulate matter in our shared air basin, and limited options for higher educational institutions (no CSU or UC main campuses).

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In short, we are economically and culturally more similar to the Eastern Coachella Valley than those communities are with the adjacent but more affluent cities to their north and west. We are more like Coachella, Indio, Mecca, Thermal, and Blythe than they are like La Quinjta, Indian Wells, and Palm Desert.

We deserve representation at the Federal and State level that takes into account the needs of our desert community and does not simply lump us with San Diego only because we share the U.S.-Mexico Border. Furthermore, this Commission has an opportunity to embolden our California Congressional delegation by assigning two representatives to the U.S.-Mexico Border rather than keeping the status-quo. The current district draft maps will disenfranchise our communities and continue to keep us in the shadows of our large urban communities to the west. Please reconsider your initial draft and listen to the request of Imperial County residents.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter



**Subject:** Imperial County

**From:** Ruth Debra <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 10:20:41 -0700

**To:** [REDACTED]

Hello,

My spouse and I live and vote in Palm Springs, CA and have done so since 2003. We feel that it is imperative that we share our representation with Imperial County.

Geographically, Imperial County lies south of the Coachella Valley and shares both the desert climate and agricultural and tourism industries of the Coachella Valley. Many of us feel that Imperial County is a natural extension of our valley's part of Riverside County.

Please give long and strong consideration of these facts in the redistricting of our area. We feel that sharing representation will only enhance the natural connections of our area.

Thank you,

Ruth Debra and Sherry Fulton

Cities in the Pass, the Coachella Valley and Imperial County are all small cities, with common small city problems. All cities have populations under 100,000 with part-time councils that collaborate on a variety of infrastructure issues.

The San Gorgonio Pass Area needs to be kept with the Coachella Valley and the San Jacinto Valley. These are the areas of common interest for us and we do not want to be a part of San Bernardino. By Incorporating Imperial County and Eastern Coachella you could make one AD and then the Western Coachella Valley, Beaumont, Banning and the San Jacinto Valley would be another. Then put these 2 districts together for the Senate District

I wish to protest the inclusion of the Banning, Beaumont area in the currently proposed SBAN senate district. We have nothing in common with those areas of San Bernardino that are being included. We prefer to maintain Riverside County with Imperial County and keep our geographic boundaries intact. PLEASE TO NOT CHANGE US.

Geography: Eastern Riverside County is separated from western Riverside County by a range of mountains. An analysis of the natural terrain would indicate that the eastern side of these mountains includes the Banning/Beaumont region, the Coachella Valley to the Arizona border and the Imperial Valley . Imperial County is separated from San Diego on the coast by another range of mountains. Imperial County is separated from Riverside County only by a man-made boundary. But for the road-signs, a traveler would not know they have crossed into a different county when traveling the NAFTA highway (Highway 86) between the two—there is no natural differentiation in terrain, climate or natural features. The man-made border runs through desert and the Salton Sea . Eastern Riverside County and Imperial County also share geo-thermal resources and other renewable energy resources that would support economic growth in this arena.

Economic relationships: Residents of the Banning/Beaumont Pass area and Imperial County look to the Coachella Valley for shopping, culture and entertainment. Residents of the Coachella Valley shop at the Cabazon mall between Banning and Palm Springs , the local shops and Imperial County . Social service providers like the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, a nonprofit developer and manager of affordable housing build in the Coachella Valley and Imperial County and Clinicas del Salud operate health clinics for farmworkers and low-income residents in both Imperial county and the Coachella Valley . These and other social service organizations operate in these rural communities—not urbanized San Diego County .

Why are we being thrown in with San Bernardino, once again in the Senate District . WE have no common interests, our community is rural and retired, the San Bernardino Area is urban, younger families and the demographics do not match. Please reconsider and DO NOT MOVE US.

**Subject:** Public Comment from Imperial County

**From:** Becky Terrazas <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 10:59:38 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

As an Imperial County resident and voter, I am concerned about the current draft maps you have drawn for the Congressional, State Senate and State Assembly districts for our region.

After reviewing the drafts released on June 10th, I am very concerned about the lack of representation Imperial County residents will have if the lines stay drawn that link us to Eastern San Diego County.

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter

[REDACTED]

Heber, CA 92249

**From:** Bruce McClane <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 16:40:41 -0700 (PDT)  
**To:** [REDACTED]

As a homeowner in Palm Desert and an active member of my community, I sincerely hope that our area will be combined with Imperial County in the redistricting currently underway. We have similar populations and similar issues of concern. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sharon Miller  
[REDACTED]  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Public Comment: 1 - Imperial

**From:** John Hernandez <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 16:45:29 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: John Hernandez <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Redistrict Imperial County North/South

Message Body:

We in Imperial County have more in common as a "Community of interest" with Coachella Valley.

Examples:

Migrant stream for agriculture harvesting

Proximity to Mexico/US Border main corridors for trucking and workforce are north and south

State prisons in Imperial and Riverside counties are similar in populations and commutes are possible between counties for employees where cost of living & housing are similar.

Salton Sea extends north to south and long term remediation as a whole impacts Imperial and Riverside County. Salton Sea Clean Up is regional.

Coachella Canal supplied by Colorado River which provide water for both regions.

The Imperial Irrigation District based in Imperial County extends service well into southern riverside county for energy. Solar development alternative energy similar regions

Mountain range crest are shared on both east slopes and surrounding Imperial & Coachella valley.

Transportation corridor to Mexico heavily used for NAFTA transports thru Imperial and Coachella Valley to Long Beach Harbor

Medical facilities like Clinicas de salud del Pueblo has installations in both Imperial & Riverside as health concerns similar as are health education and welfare concerns.

Both Imperial and Coachella valley's have majority latino populations

Health issues environmental justice, pesticides are of major concerns for north to south

Numbers of tribal lands on flat lands are similar in topography and landscape for related tribal issues

Alternative/renewal energy projects are planned for similar flat land capes

Population growth extending to LA and beyond have seen traditionally south to north growth trends

Low educational achievement and high school drop out rates are similar and thus call for same type of strategies to deal with problem'

Strong agriculture economies with shared workforce and transportation corridors.

The flyway for birds is also north/south & vice versa. Problems associated with migration are of common interest. Please consider drawing the lines that have Imperial Valley & Coachella Valley together.

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