

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:**DO NOT combine Coachella Valley and Imperial County

**Date:**Tue, 24 May 2011 13:53:57 -0700 (PDT)

**From:**CAROL HASKELL [REDACTED]

**To:**[REDACTED]

Have lived in the Palm Springs area since 1955, we are a resort city, we have nothing in common with the cities south of Indio. Our main focus is tourism, theirs is agriculture. We have a older diverse population, with leisure time to enjoy life and few responsibilities. The government structures are already in place.

Imperial County residents would be better served combining with San Diego or Orange County. These counties are still growing, and have populations of old and young. they would offer employment and business opportunities for the future.

Coachella Vally has nothing to offer these residents.

Sincerely,

Carol Haskell

[REDACTED]  
Palm Springs, California 92664

Please don't put the Coachella Valley with Imperial County. We need to stay with Riverside County, Thank you, Elaine and Steve Grand [REDACTED], Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Stephen Grand

**Subject:** Public Comment: 2 - Riverside

**From:** To Nga Thi Pham [REDACTED]

**Date:** Sat, 25 Jun 2011 05:20:50 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: To Nga Thi Pham [REDACTED]

Subject: Please keep the Little Saigon area together included cities of Garden Grove, Westminster, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley.

Message Body:

Please keep the Little Saigon area together included cities of Garden Grove, Westminster, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** IMPERIAL VALLEY IS IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

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

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 13:22:02 -0400

**To:** [REDACTED]

Imperial County should be within the Coachella Valley District.  
This is one of our communities.  
It does NOT belong in San Diego

Rick Weingard

**Subject:** Letter to the Commission

**From:** <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 16:36:40 -0700

**To:** [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners:

First and foremost, thank you for thoroughly reviewing the vast differences between the Coachella and Imperial Valleys; and for considering our very sensible request to keep the Coachella Valley as one community of interest and bringing us closer to our neighboring desert cities, Banning and Beaumont.

In reviewing the proposed map, I am pleased to learn that the Coachella Valley was kept as such and that the agricultural and bordering district of Imperial Valley, has remained within San Diego County—which will better serve the needs and challenges of that area. This map also accounts for the uniqueness of our desert resort area, which is driven by a tourist economy and a professional workforce that continues to grow.

As a lifelong resident of the Coachella Valley, who happens to be of Mexican descent, I believe it's important to assure that every constituent is adequately and effectively represented—and I have always found that to be the case.

I urge you to stand by this decision and keep the proposed map 1.

Sincerely,

Claudia I. Suarez  
Resident of Indio, Ca

**Subject:** Public Comment: 2 - Riverside

**From:** "Henri V. De Roule" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 21:28:00 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Henri V. De Roule <[REDACTED]>

Subject: San Gorgonio Pass Redistricting

Message Body:

I am a resident of the San Gorgonio Pass and I believe that our area has much more in common with the desert communities of the Coachella Valley than with the "Inland Empire" - most of which is in San Bernardino County. Please consider the following when drawing the final redistricting maps:

1. The Banning/Beaumont Senate District should remain in Riverside County and not be spread out through all of San Bernardino. Our Demographics more closely follow the Coachella Valley, San Jacinto and Hemet.
2. We are a rural community and have nothing in common with the northwest section of San Bernardino
3. Our common interests lies in the San Jacinto and San Gorgonio Pass Areas with close ties to Palms Springs, Hemet and San Jacinto.
4. We appreciate being a part of the Congressional District combined with the Coachella Valley and the San Jacinto Valley. We feel that our Assembly District and Senate District should be in this same type geographic configuration.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on the redistricting of our area.

Sincerely,

Henri V. De Roule

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** We Support June 10 Preliminary Maps For Coachella Valley!

**From:** "Joan-Steve Smith" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 00:23:42 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

Citizens Redistricting Committee Members:

We Support Your Preliminary Assembly, Senate, and Congressional Maps For The Coachella Valley, That Were Published on June 10, 2011.

-- The Coachella Valley is basically made up of resort communities with tourism as the main industry, as opposed to agriculture as the major industry for the Imperial County.

-- We're close, compact, neighboring communities, as opposed to the geographically spread out Imperial County.

-- We share transportation via the Palm Springs Airport/ Frwy 10/ Hwy 111, as opposed to Imperial County's Frwy 8 which ties it to SD.

-- Our interests are more similar than different with particular issues that pertain to the entire Coachella Valley, as opposed to Imperial and San Diego counties.

In summary, we appreciate your original choice to keep the Coachella Valley together with single representation-- one Assemblyman, one Senator, and one Congressman. Hopefully, you'll see through, and reject, the organized political effort that is trying to split away east Coachella Valley cities toward Imperial County. All of the Coachella Valley cities should stay together, with Riverside County-- and Imperial County should remain with San Diego County.

Thank you for your attention.  
Joan Smith and Family  
Coachella Valley Residents

6/23/11

Dear Commissioners:

I appreciate you taking the time to focus interest on our future district lines. The Coachella Valley is very unique and has always been a tourist attraction. The district we have now has been greatly represented and should not change. Adding more to our district, like Imperial Valley would not give us the equal representation our valley needs. Please keep the same district lines or even the proposed map would be fine. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Thank you,

Harriett Arias



Indio, CA 92203

**Subject:** Re: Redistricting in the Coachella Valley

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 23:57:53 -0400 (EDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: 6/24/2011 10:23:46 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time

Subj: Urgent-Need Letters on redistricting!

Hello all,

We have just found out that the Republicans are flooding the redistricting commission with letters against having Imperial County with Coachella Valley in the Congressional, Assembly and Senate seats.

**WE NEED YOU TO WRITE LETTERS NOW!**

**Send letters via email to: [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov)**

We have until Tuesday to get letters in. They don't have to be long, but need to emphasize that as a resident of the Coachella Valley or Imperial County you want to see a Congressional District that includes both Imperial County and Coachella Valley, two Assembly districts, one including Imperial County and Eastern Coachella Valley and the other containing western Coachella Valley through the pass to Beaumont and Banning, and the State Senate district including both Assembly districts.

I have pasted a couple letters I and others have written below for talking points. Please encourage others within Coachella Valley and Imperial County to send these in as well. Again we only have until Tuesday.

**Please do not put this call out to distribution lists-only send to people you know will write.**

Call or email me if you have any questions. Thank you!!!!

Greg

Letter #1

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

I first of all want to thank you for your efforts in this very tedious process. Your professionalism and openness are to be highly commended. I also want to apologize on behalf of some of the public who seem to attack you in personal ways that are not warranted for the task you have taken on.

I am writing you today to offer some answers and observations to some of the questions that arose at both the San Bernardino and San Diego public hearings this past week. For your reference I was speaker number 32 in San Bernardino and was speaker number 3 at the Palm Springs public testimony held in May.

During my testimony in San Bernardino I made a suggestion that the map makers should think about starting their drawing process from the eastern border of California and move west. I am actually very serious about this suggestion. After hearing the testimonies in San Bernardino and San Diego, I believe this would help address a lot of the concerns voiced by not just eastern Riverside County, but the communities of San Diego and San Bernardino/Redlands area.

During my testimony in Palm Springs I included a power point presentation (I have reattached to this email as a pdf for you) that included maps for your consideration. I strongly believe that if you use these maps, especially those for the 45<sup>th</sup> Congressional, 80<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> Assembly Districts and the 40<sup>th</sup> Senate Seat, this will allow you to address the concerns of the citizens of Imperial County, Eastern Coachella Valley, and the eastern portions of Riverside County.

I also believe that by following these maps, you can utilize the current cities and communities in the first draft maps to accommodate the changes desired in the San Bernardino Redlands area and the areas of San Diego that were spoken about on Monday night. The cities that are included in the first draft maps that border the western portion of the maps I proposed at the Palm Springs hearing could be used to make up for the population shifts required to satisfy the eastern portions of San Diego County, but especially the communities of San Bernardino and Redlands and the western areas of Riverside County.

I would just like to close reemphasizing the overwhelming testimony you have heard in our area about including Imperial County with the Coachella Valley. Including both of these areas in the Congressional District should satisfy the Voting Rights Act as well as the numerous communities of interest expressed throughout all the hearings. Creating an Assembly District with Imperial County and the Eastern portions of Coachella Valley will also accomplish these two objectives.

I know that there were questions from commissioners about including Palm Springs in this AD, but that would not be the case if you look at the proposed maps I submitted in Palm Springs. I am suggesting that the 65<sup>th</sup> AD extend from the western portions of the Coachella Valley to the Beaumont Banning area which again share many commonalities expressed during public testimony. The dividing line would be Bob Hope Street which divides the eastern and western portions of the Coachella Valley.

In San Diego there seemed to be a recurring theme about the affluence of Palm Springs. While it is true that there are some affluent people in the Palm Springs area, the majority of our full-time residents do not fit that criterion. One only has to look at the statistics for the Palm Springs Unified School District which encompasses the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs and Thousand Palms that show 85% of our children are on free and reduced lunch.

Finally, as I expressed at the conclusion of my testimony in San Bernardino, the proposed Senate seat does not satisfy the nesting requirements and includes communities that have absolutely no common interests with each other. Once again, I refer you to the original maps I proposed that would nest the 80<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> AD's into the 40<sup>th</sup> Senate seat.

Letter #2

## Comments before the Citizens' Redistricting Commission

### Round II-Comments on Tentative Maps

I am a resident of the city of \_\_\_\_\_, in the Coachella Valley portion of eastern Riverside County. I have resided here for \_\_\_\_\_ years. I am disappointed in the tentative maps released by the Commission on June 10<sup>th</sup> as they appear to perpetuate the cannibalization of Riverside County that has been the pattern under previous decades' redistricting through the

## Legislature.

Riverside County has a population of over 2 million people and is the fastest growing County in the State of California, yet the frame of reference or starting point for the drawing of legislative district boundaries seems to ignore this growth and significant size of the County and appears to start at the Pacific Coast, moving inland to accommodate districts based in populations in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties: once again treating the Inland Counties of Imperial and Riverside as afterthoughts.

Riverside County is diverse and has unique challenges that cannot be met if our Legislative representation is combined with coastal communities. Our population is lower income, suburban and rural, with large communities of retired people. The County is about 50% Latino with small populations of African-Americans and Asians.

A more just and effective starting point for delineating Riverside County districts is the eastern border of the State (the Colorado River) which is also the eastern border of Riverside County. A more in-depth analysis of the populations in the inland portion of California shows the community of interest shared by Imperial County and eastern Riverside County. The climate, the economies and the population demographics of eastern Riverside County (the eastern half of the Coachella Valley) and Imperial County are identical. In addition, these communities are contained within the political boundaries of the Imperial Irrigation District and are part of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) statutory planning area for transportation, housing and air quality. The boundary between Imperial and Riverside County is entirely man-made while the boundaries between Imperial and San Diego on the one-hand and the Coachella Valley and western Riverside County on the other hand are physical, natural mountain ranges that separate populations on either side, preventing economic, social and physical interaction. The boundary between Riverside and Imperial Counties also divides the Salton Sea—an environmental challenge contained in the State's largest inland body of water. The communities around the Sea need to work together to mitigate impending air quality disasters and splitting the legislative representation among six (6) different state and federal legislators will not facilitate the solution need to avoid catastrophe when the Sea begins to dry up in 2017.

The appropriate districts to meet the population targets required by law would create an Assembly District that includes all of Imperial County, the communities of the Palo Verde Valley at the border (Blythe, Palo Verde, Ripley) and the eastern Coachella Valley from Palm Desert east. These communities consist entirely of cities no larger than 80,000, with economies based on tourism, retirement and agriculture. They all accommodate "snow-bird" populations that spend the winters but are not full-time residents. This phenomenon supports hospitality, retail and health-care based local economies.

A second Assembly District would start at the political boundaries separating the city of Rancho Mirage from Palm Desert which is also the boundary between Palm Springs Unified School District and Desert Sands Unified School District, and move west to include the communities of Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Thousand Palms, Palm Springs and the Banning/Beaumont Pass area to

the northwestern county line. While these communities share a number of characteristics with the eastern valley, their economies are not based on agriculture and emphasize conventions, tourism, retirement and health care to a greater extent. In past years, when the community newspaper was locally owned, one version—the Desert Sun—covered the western portion of the Coachella Valley and the Pass while the Indio Daily News covered the eastern portion of the valley. The valley was only unified by the media with the entry of national media companies purchasing local outlets.

If these two Assembly Districts are then nested in a single Senate district, the result is a cohesive district with economic, geographic, demographic and social communities of interest. All of the incorporated cities are small (under 100,000) and no single city will dominate. The challenges of job growth, the needs of a Latino plurality community and economies of tourism, agriculture and the infrastructure needs of a fast growing inland region will be well-represented by a single State Senator, resident in the district.

The criteria established to support the Assembly and Senate districts apply as well to the local Congressional district. Combining the population of Imperial (pop. 174,000) with Riverside County justifies three full Congressional districts to represent these two like counties. This allocation is justified by the population size and profile.

I urge you to end the days where Riverside and Imperial Counties are used in the redistricting process to fill-out urban districts centered in San Diego, Orange or Los Angeles Counties. Given the needs, the size of the population of Riverside County and the additional anticipated growth in this region of the State, I ask you to use this region as a primary frame of reference and not an afterthought, subordinate to the needs of coastal California.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,

**Greg Lucas Rodriguez**

[Palm Springs, CA 92262](#)

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**Subject:** Coachella Valley

**From:** Nichole Robles <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 23:44:01 +0000

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners,

I am a registered Republican and I feel it is my duty to report an attempt by fellow Republicans to unfairly influence your process and break up my community of interest. In recent days you have received a deluge of letters arguing to split the Coachella Valley from the Imperial Valley. These letters are being organized by Republicans interested in maximizing their power, not in maintaining legitimate communities of interest.

Among those who have sent you letters advocating breaking up the Coachella and Imperial Valleys have been:

John Richard Mead, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Coachella Valley Congress of Republicans ([http://www.ccrGOP.org/chapters.htm#Coachella\\_Valley](http://www.ccrGOP.org/chapters.htm#Coachella_Valley))

Terry Kay, past President of the Sun City Palm Desert Republicans ([http://www.unitedwecanwin.com/united\\_programs.html](http://www.unitedwecanwin.com/united_programs.html))

Daniel Duardo, Political Director of the Coachella Valley Young Republicans (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Coachella-Valley-Young-Republicans/148078755206662>)

Al Vasquez, member of Schwarzenegger's 2003 transition team and close ally of Congresswoman Bono Mack (<http://www.calinst.org/bulletins/b1029j.htm>)

The truth is that the Coachella and Imperial Valleys are inextricably linked. Our communities share economic, social and demographic ties. Our communities share the same transportation corridors. Our communities are both part of the Imperial Irrigation District. We share common links around the Salton Sea- the State's largest inland body of water. The boundary between Imperial and Riverside County is entirely artificial.

It is absurd that your Assembly map has Imperial County (which is 75% Latino) connected to eastern San Diego County (which is the birthplace of the Minutemen) rather than to similar communities like mine in the eastern Coachella Valley.

Please do not let these individuals who are putting their partisan interests over our community needs corrupt your hard work.

Sincerely,

Nichole Robles  
Indio, CA

P.S.- As a member of the Corona-Norco Republican Women, Federated Commissioner Filkins-Webber must be similarly aware of the partisan backgrounds and interests of these individuals. As the primary proponent of dividing my community of interest, I hope she will fully disclose her knowledge of this nakedly partisan lobbying when referencing community of interest testimony to separate the Coachella and Imperial Valleys in future commission debates.

**Subject:** Coachalla Valley District Lines

**From:** Glenn Miller <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 14:00:02 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

Dear Honorable CRC Members:

Please accept this letter in support of the preliminary redistricting maps for the cities making up the Coachella Valley in eastern Riverside County. As the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Indio, the largest city in the Coachella Valley, I would like to congratulate the Commission on its thoughtful and well reasoned work to date. The preliminary maps in our region are finally properly drawn and make sense. Although, we do stand to lose three representatives, the Coachella Valley cities are united as a whole and I urge you to keep the maps in their current state.

I understand that the Commission has received testimony in recent days proposing that Imperial County be joined with the cities in the eastern end of the Coachella Valley, namely Indio, Coachella and the unincorporated areas of Mecca and Thermal. It is my understanding that much if this testimony, if not all, is poticially motivated by Democratic elected officials and potential candidates for the 2012 election cycle. I urge the Commission to consider the credibility of this testimony and to recall that most of the testimony appeared to be scripted talking points. None of testimony offered credible reasons on why a distant rural farmland area should be drawn together with a tourism based economy with a suburban contiguous bedroom community of which the cities of the Coachella Valley are comprised.

I thank the Commission members for their time and attention in advance. Please do not combine the Coachella Valley and Imperial County in any future maps.

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenn A. Miller,*

Mayor Pro Tem

Indio City Council

[REDACTED]  
Indio, CA 92201  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Subject:** CA 80th District

**From:** Rachel Sherrell <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 11:06:20 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

I am a resident of the city of Indio in the Coachella Valley portion of eastern Riverside County. I have resided here my entire life, 25 years. I am disappointed in the tentative maps released by the Commission on June 10<sup>th</sup> as they appear to perpetuate the cannibalization of Riverside County that has been the pattern under previous decades' redistricting through the Legislature.

Riverside County has a population of over 2 million people and is the fastest growing County in the State of California, yet the frame of reference or starting point for the drawing of legislative district boundaries seems to ignore this growth and significant size of the County and appears to start at the Pacific Coast, moving inland to accommodate districts based in populations in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties: once again treating the Inland Counties of Imperial and Riverside as afterthoughts.

Riverside County is diverse and has unique challenges that cannot be met if our Legislative representation is combined with coastal communities. Our population is lower income, suburban and rural, with large communities of retired people. The County is about 50% Latino with small populations of African-Americans and Asians.

A more just and effective starting point for delineating Riverside County districts is the eastern border of the State (the Colorado River) which is also the eastern border of Riverside County. A more in-depth analysis of the populations in the inland portion of California shows the community of interest shared by Imperial County and eastern Riverside County. The climate, the economies and the population demographics of eastern Riverside County (the eastern half of the Coachella Valley) and Imperial County are identical. In addition, these communities are contained within the political boundaries of the Imperial Irrigation District and are part of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) statutory planning area for transportation, housing and air quality. The boundary between Imperial and Riverside County is entirely man-made while the boundaries between Imperial and San Diego on the one-hand and the Coachella Valley and western Riverside County on the other hand are physical, natural mountain ranges that separate populations on either side, preventing economic, social and physical interaction. The boundary between Riverside and Imperial Counties also divides the Salton Sea—an environmental challenge contained in the State's largest inland body of water. The communities around the Sea need to work together to mitigate impending air quality disasters and splitting the legislative representation among six (6) different state and federal legislators will not facilitate the solution need to avoid catastrophe when the Sea begins to dry up in 2017.

The appropriate districts to meet the population targets required by law would create an Assembly District that includes all of Imperial County, the communities of the Palo Verde Valley at the border (Blythe, Palo Verde, Ripley) and the eastern Coachella Valley from Palm Desert east. These communities consist entirely of cities no larger than 80,000, with economies based on tourism, retirement and agriculture. They all accommodate "snow-bird" populations that spend the winters but are not full-time residents. This phenomenon supports hospitality, retail and health-care based local economies.

A second Assembly District would start at the political boundaries separating the city of Rancho Mirage from Palm Desert which is also the boundary between Palm Springs Unified School District and Desert Sands Unified School District, and move west to include the communities of Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Thousand Palms, Palm Springs and the Banning/Beaumont Pass area to the northwestern county line. While these communities share a number of characteristics with the eastern valley, their economies are not based on agriculture and emphasize conventions, tourism, retirement and health care to a greater extent. In past years,

when the community newspaper was locally owned, one version—the Desert Sun—covered the western portion of the Coachella Valley and the Pass while the Indio Daily News covered the eastern portion of the valley. The valley was only unified by the media with the entry of national media companies purchasing local outlets.

If these two Assembly Districts are then nested in a single Senate district, the result is a cohesive district with economic, geographic, demographic and social communities of interest. All of the incorporated cities are small (under 100,000) and no single city will dominate. The challenges of job growth, the needs of a Latino plurality community and economies of tourism, agriculture and the infrastructure needs of a fast growing inland region will be well-represented by a single State Senator, resident in the district.

The criteria established to support the Assembly and Senate districts apply as well to the local Congressional district. Combining the population of Imperial (pop. 174,000) with Riverside County justifies three full Congressional districts to represent these two like counties. This allocation is justified by the population size and profile.

I urge you to end the days where Riverside and Imperial Counties are used in the redistricting process to fill-out urban districts centered in San Diego, Orange or Los Angeles Counties. Given the needs, the size of the population of Riverside County and the additional anticipated growth in this region of the State, I ask you to use this region as a primary frame of reference and not an afterthought, subordinate to the needs of coastal California.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,

Rachel Adelia Sherrell

  
Indio, CA 92201

**Subject:** Public Comment: 2 - Riverside

**From:** Jeremy Mape <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 15:07:44 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Jeremy Mape <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Support

Message Body:

Please support Inland Action's proposed maps for San Bernardino/Riverside counties.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Redistricting

**From:** "Michelle Hathaway" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 05:38:42 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

First, I want to thank the committee for listening to the residents of Riverside and more importantly Coachella Valley. It is important to realize that we feel somewhat isolated here and to further divide us would be a mistake. We are watching with care the hearings and subsequent decision making because the threat of gerrymandering has not disappeared and it is just not an acceptable outcome. Please don't let a small, but vocal minority allow you to believe that this is what the residents of the valley want.

Thank you for your time.

**Michelle Hathaway**

**Subject:** Redistricting

**From:** Christina Garcia <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 11:17:38 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

I am a resident of the city of Coachella, in the Coachella Valley portion of eastern Riverside County. I have resided here for 24 years. I am disappointed in the tentative maps released by the Commission on June 10<sup>th</sup> as they appear to perpetuate the cannibalization of Riverside County that has been the pattern under previous decades' redistricting through the Legislature.

Riverside County has a population of over 2 million people and is the fastest growing County in the State of California, yet the frame of reference or starting point for the drawing of legislative district boundaries seems to ignore this growth and significant size of the County and appears to start at the Pacific Coast, moving inland to accommodate districts based in populations in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties: once again treating the Inland Counties of Imperial and Riverside as afterthoughts.

Riverside County is diverse and has unique challenges that cannot be met if our Legislative representation is combined with coastal communities. Our population is lower income, suburban and rural, with large communities of retired people. The County is about 50% Latino with small populations of African-Americans and Asians.

A more just and effective starting point for delineating Riverside County districts is the eastern border of the State (the Colorado River) which is also the eastern border of Riverside County. A more in-depth analysis of the populations in the inland portion of California shows the community of interest shared by Imperial County and eastern Riverside County. The climate, the economies and the population demographics of eastern Riverside County (the eastern half of the Coachella Valley) and Imperial County are identical. In addition, these communities are contained within the political boundaries of the Imperial Irrigation District and are part of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) statutory planning area for transportation, housing and air quality. The boundary between Imperial and Riverside County is entirely man-made while the boundaries between Imperial and San Diego on the one-hand and the Coachella Valley and western Riverside County on the other hand are physical, natural mountain ranges that separate populations on either side, preventing economic, social and physical interaction. The boundary between Riverside and Imperial Counties also divides the Salton Sea—an environmental challenge contained in the State's largest inland body of water. The communities around the Sea need to work together to mitigate impending air quality disasters and splitting the legislative representation among six (6) different state and federal legislators will not facilitate the solution need to avoid catastrophe when the Sea begins to dry up in 2017.

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when the community newspaper was locally owned, one version—the Desert Sun—covered the western portion of the Coachella Valley and the Pass while the Indio Daily News covered the eastern portion of the valley. The valley was only unified by the media with the entry of national media companies purchasing local outlets.

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I urge you to end the days where Riverside and Imperial Counties are used in the redistricting process to fill-out urban districts centered in San Diego, Orange or Los Angeles Counties. Given the needs, the size of the population of Riverside County and the additional anticipated growth in this region of the State, I ask you to use this region as a primary frame of reference and not an afterthought, subordinate to the needs of coastal California.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,

Christina Garcia  
Coachella, CA. 92236

**Subject:** As a resident of Indio CA

**From:** Friends of Manuel Perez for Assembly <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2011 10:38:19 -0700

**To:** [REDACTED]

I am a resident of the city of indio, in the Coachella Valley portion of eastern Riverside County. I have resided here for 30 years. I am disappointed in the tentative maps released by the Commission on June 10<sup>th</sup> as they appear to perpetuate the cannibalization of Riverside County that has been the pattern under previous decades' redistricting through the Legislature.

Riverside County has a population of over 2 million people and is the fastest growing County in the State of California, yet the frame of reference or starting point for the drawing of legislative district boundaries seems to ignore this growth and significant size of the County and appears to start at the Pacific Coast, moving inland to accommodate districts based in populations in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties: once again treating the Inland Counties of Imperial and Riverside as afterthoughts.

Riverside County is diverse and has unique challenges that cannot be met if our Legislative representation is combined with coastal communities. Our population is lower income, suburban and rural, with large communities of retired people. The County is about 50% Latino with small populations of African-Americans and Asians.

A more just and effective starting point for delineating Riverside County districts is the eastern border of the State (the Colorado River) which is also the eastern border of Riverside County. A more in-depth analysis of the populations in the inland portion of California shows the community of interest shared by Imperial County and eastern Riverside County. The climate, the economies and the population demographics of eastern Riverside County (the eastern half of the Coachella Valley) and Imperial County are identical. In addition, these communities are contained within the political boundaries of the Imperial Irrigation District and are part of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) statutory planning area for transportation, housing and air quality. The boundary between Imperial and Riverside County is entirely man-made while the boundaries between Imperial and San Diego on the one-hand and the Coachella Valley and western Riverside County on the other hand are physical, natural mountain ranges that separate populations on either side, preventing economic, social and physical interaction. The boundary between Riverside and Imperial Counties also divides the Salton Sea—an environmental challenge contained in the State's largest inland body of water. The communities around the Sea need to work together to mitigate impending air quality disasters and splitting the legislative representation among six (6) different state and federal legislators will not facilitate the solution need to avoid catastrophe when the Sea begins to dry up in 2017.

The appropriate districts to meet the population targets required by law would create an Assembly District that includes all of Imperial County, the communities of the Palo Verde Valley at the border (Blythe, Palo Verde, Ripley) and the eastern Coachella Valley from Palm Desert east. These communities consist entirely of cities no larger than 80,000, with economies based on tourism,

retirement and agriculture. They all accommodate “snow-bird” populations that spend the winters but are not full-time residents. This phenomenon supports hospitality, retail and health-care based local economies.

A second Assembly District would start at the political boundaries separating the city of Rancho Mirage from Palm Desert which is also the boundary between Palm Springs Unified School District and Desert Sands Unified School District, and move west to include the communities of Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Thousand Palms, Palm Springs and the Banning/Beaumont Pass area to the northwestern county line. While these communities share a number of characteristics with the eastern valley, their economies are not based on agriculture and emphasize conventions, tourism, retirement and health care to a greater extent. In past years, when the community newspaper was locally owned, one version—the Desert Sun—covered the western portion of the Coachella Valley and the Pass while the Indio Daily News covered the eastern portion of the valley. The valley was only unified by the media with the entry of national media companies purchasing local outlets.

If these two Assembly Districts are then nested in a single Senate district, the result is a cohesive district with economic, geographic, demographic and social communities of interest. All of the incorporated cities are small (under 100,000) and no single city will dominate. The challenges of job growth, the needs of a Latino plurality community and economies of tourism, agriculture and the infrastructure needs of a fast growing inland region will be well-represented by a single State Senator, resident in the district.

The criteria established to support the Assembly and Senate districts apply as well to the local Congressional district. Combining the population of Imperial (pop. 174,000) with Riverside County justifies three full Congressional districts to represent these two like counties. This allocation is justified by the population size and profile.

I urge you to end the days where Riverside and Imperial Counties are used in the redistricting process to fill-out urban districts centered in San Diego, Orange or Los Angeles Counties. Given the needs, the size of the population of Riverside County and the additional anticipated growth in this region of the State, I ask you to use this region as a primary frame of reference and not an afterthought, subordinate to the needs of coastal California.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,