

Subject: Coachella Valley/Imperial County Redistricting

From: Bob Edgerly <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sat, 25 Jun 2011 01:41:44 -0700

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

A just and effective starting point for delineating Riverside County State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional districts is the eastern border of the State (the Colorado River), which is also the eastern border of Riverside County. An 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 Counties 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. Splitting the legislative representation among six different state and federal legislators will not facilitate the solution needed 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

a) 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.

b) 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.

c) 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.

d) 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 a Gerrymandering 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 our service to the citizens of California.

Sincerely,

Robert Edgerly

[REDACTED]

Cathedral City, CA 92234

[REDACTED]

Subject: Coachella Valley

From: LUCIANO MENDEZ [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, 25 Jun 2011 12:52:10 -0700

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Please link Eastern Coachella Valley with Imperial County

I am a resident of the city of Coachella, in the Coachella Valley portion of eastern Riverside County. I have resided here for 20 years. I am disappointed in the tentative maps released by the Commission on June 10th 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,

Luciano Mendez


Coachella, CA 92236

Subject: Coachella Valley

From: Joaquin Uribe <[REDACTED]@com>

Date: Sat, 25 Jun 2011 10:14:00 -0700 (PDT)

To: "votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov" <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the historic work you are doing in the State of California. I am a resident of Indio, CA and have been closely following your work. As you may imagine, I have been particularly concerned with where my city will be in regards to voting districts.

I was pleased while watching the testimonies of fellow Coachella Valley residents in Palm Springs on May 12. It was clear to me that the overwhelming majority agreed with the following.

1. Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and the Country Club crowd have nothing in common with the rural, agricultural communities of the Eastern Coachella Valley.
2. The Eastern Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley have much in common including the Salton Sea, Agriculture, high Latino population, and renewable energy.

I am troubled by the fact that the first map show the Eastern Coachella Valley with the West Coachella Valley. And Imperial Valley was attached to a racist white area of San Diego.

I have a simple solution for helping both areas maintain what are true communities of interest:

Put the Eastern Coachella Valley with Imperial Valley in an Assembly District.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Joaquin Uribe
Indio, Ca

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re; redistricting

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, 25 Jun 2011 23:50:13 -0400 (EDT)

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

Please to the responsible thing and create a district of like minded and with like needs and asperations by linking the eastern part of Riverside county (i.e. the Coachella Valley) and Imperial County. These two areas of California share so much with each other and need to be connected now that redistricting is taking place. The Coachella Valley has nothing in common with Minnefee, and the Morongo Valley. And the Imperial Valley is nothing in common with San Diego County.

Please these areas with common goal and put them together, it on makes common sense.

Sincerely,

Randolph M. Scott

[REDACTED]
Palm Springs, CA 92262