As this is the last day to receive public comment on the proposed redistricting issue, I would like to express my strong support for the current draft redistricting plan for the Coachella Valley. I believe that the entire district should stay within Riverside County, as we all share the same interests, and not be partitioned into the Imperial Valley.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carole M. Zaffino
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
June 28, 2011

VIA EMAIL TRANSMISSION

Citizens Redistricting Committee
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Map alternative affecting COACH, PRS, RVMVN, and NESAN (1st Draft)
Congressional Districts

Honorable Commissioners:

Be it understood, as of June 28, 2011, the Hemet City Council unanimously concurs with the conclusions and the actions proposed by the Hemet-San Jacinto Action Group.

Yours very truly,

Vice Mayor Robert Youssef
Council Member Larry Smith
Council Member Linda Krupa
Subject: (no subject)
From: [redacted]
Date: 6/28/2011 10:16 PM
To: [redacted]

Palm Springs is our city of residence and when the preliminary maps were published on June 10, 11, we were happy with them.
We feel strongly that our Desert Cities and spheres of influence remain districted within Riverside County. We strongly suggest that you keep the map as stated on June 10, and not succumb to political pressures!

Thank you.

David and Adrianne Doyle
Palm Springs, CA 92262
I live in La Quinta, and can never understand why we are connected to Hemet rather than the Imperial Valley. The maps should be horizontal rather than vertical, similar to the rest of California. Although it looks like a large area, a great deal is fairly empty desert, but due to the nature of the high mountains, we are much more closely associated with the Imperial Valley. It is similar to connecting cities on two sides of the Sierras. Jean Gilchrist
Re: Proposed Legislative Redistricting for Riverside County

June 27, 2011

I have been a resident of Riverside County for the past 8 years and would like to address the proposed Legislative Redistricting for the Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts.

For more than 20 years the Eastern Riverside County (Eastern Coachella Valley) and Imperial County (Imperial Valley) and Palo Verde Valley have been in the same Senate and Assembly District and I believe the Congressional District should follow the same pattern. The Assembly and Senate Districts were Judicially-Established in 1991, with no legal challenges by the population, and have since been successfully serving the area. This Congressional Redistricting should reflect the same unique challenges as the Assembly and Senate Districts of the area have already addressed.

Riverside County is the fastest growing county in the state. We have a diverse population of over 2 million people (we are of lower income, 50% Latino, large community of retired individuals) and we should be Districted with the similar natural resources, economic conditions and social services present in Imperial County, not more western and coastal County communities.

Another issue of concern regarding the redistricting is to keep the Salton Sea area in one district. As you know, the Sea is the largest inland body of water in the state and it is facing serious environmental issues. This area should not be split, as proposed by the commission. It should be united in working together to mitigate impending air quality and other environmental issues.

By combining the population of Imperial County (174,000) and Riverside County (2 million) three full Congressional Districts, representing these two similar counties could be justified. It is time to fully serve these two counties and address their common issues, rather than using the redistricting process to fill-out urban, coastal districts in San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles Counties.

Sincerely,

Avie Donovan
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Local Real Estate Agent
June 28, 2011 REVISED Testimony of Dennis Lopez
originally submitted June 19, 2011 to the San Bernardino
Hearing of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Honorable members of the California Redistricting Committee, I submit this testimony as an
Inland Empire resident from 1982 through 1984, and again from 2000 to today. My wife and I
chose to raise our children in the Inland Empire. Our children have attended schools in the
Riverside Unified School District and have also attended UC Riverside. My wife and I have voted
all in local, state and national elections since we moved here in September 2000.

As a United States citizen, Inland Empire resident, tax payer, and California voter, I look to the
California Citizens Redistricting Commission to strictly adhere to the Voting Rights Act, with
specific reference to Section 2, which includes protection the voting rights of the growing
number Chicanos/Latinos in the Citizen Voting Age Population residing in the Inland Empire
counties of Riverside and San Bernardino. My primary concern as an Inland Empire resident is
the protection of Chicanos/Latinos Section 2 voting rights in contiguous State Assembly, State
Senate and Congressional districts in this region.

During the last 11 years I have resided in this area I have observed a consistent pattern in which
my State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional representatives vote for legislation which is
anti-immigrant, anti-bilingual education, and that consistently undermine the interests of the
Chicano/Latino population in the Inland Empire region. The frequency of these state and
congressional legislative proposals, and the intensity of the negative impact on the
Chicano/Latino resident population, makes it imperative that the California Citizen’s
Redistricting Commission adhere strictly to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act in your final plan
so that the civil rights of protected groups under the Voting Rights Act will be respected.

My family lives in Riverside County and we have purchased cars in San Bernardino, we have our
cars serviced in San Bernardino, and I work in Colton and enjoy volunteer work with students
and families preparing for college in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. In addition, my wife
and I have many professional colleagues with whom we interact on a regular basis in the
Riverside and San Bernardino area.

Over the last five years a resident and educator in the Inland Empire I have given public
testimony at meetings of the San Bernardino County Board of Education, San Bernardino
Unified School District Board of Education, Riverside County Board of Education, Riverside City
Council, a UC Riverside Educational Forum of the California State Legislature’s Chicano/Latino
Legislative Caucus, and at a UC Riverside meeting of the University of California Regents. My
civic advocacy before these governing bodies has been for educational rights of English learners
and this has led me to join with San Bernardino and Riverside county residents and community
leaders to establish the Chicano/Latino Coalition for Educational Equity and English Learners of
the Inland Empire. In addition, I have participated in lawful and peaceful demonstrations to
protect immigrant rights in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

For additional questions please contact me at:
I am compelled to do this volunteer work due to the on-going educational crisis in the Inland Empire is evidenced by: (A) 40 consecutive years of low UC and CSU freshmen admissions eligibility compared to other counties in California, particularly for under-represented ethnic minorities; (B) the Inland Empire public schools achievement gap between affluent White students and low-income, under-represented ethnic minority students, including Chicano/Latino students, Spanish-speaking English learner students, lawful permanent resident immigrant students, and undocumented immigrant students; and (C) the increasing inequality of educational opportunities in Inland Empire public schools as evidenced by the number of schools designated in need of School Improvement.

Much of the public references in the media to the California Citizen’s Redistricting Commission has suggested that the Commission would “take politics out” of the redistricting process. Unfortunately, it is painfully clear that the California Citizens’ Redistricting Commission first draft California Redistricting plan has failed in this regard because you have chosen to make purely political calculations that ignore the Section 2 mandate under the Voting Rights Act to create State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional Districts with 50% Chicano/Latino - Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP). The decision of the California Citizens’ Redistricting Commission to devise a redistricting plan to ignore the creation of State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional districts which comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act is a purely political decision. As a native Californian who has lived in the counties of San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Alameda, Sacramento, and Santa Clara, and I am aware that statewide adherence to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act is essential to protecting the voting rights of the Chicano/Latino population.

To correct for these violations of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act I urge you to begin your revisions and final plan with the maps proposed by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) which do conform to the law. MALDEF’s plan complies with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act in the creation of State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional districts which prevent the dilution of Chicano/Latino Voting Rights, thus enabling voters in such districts to select a candidate of their choice, regardless of that candidate’s ethnic group. As a resident of Riverside who has struggled to advocate for educational equity for Spanish-speaking English learners, for civil rights, and for immigrant rights of residents in the Inland Empire, I feel the MALDEF’s Riverside/San Bernardino districts would enable my community to elect candidates into State Assembly, State Senate, and Congress that would finally be responsive to our community’s needs.

The common interests that bind the population of the communities in MALDEF’s Voting Rights Act compliant Inland Empire districts include:

- the need for improvement in low performing schools – including those schools designated in need of School Improvement,
June 28, 2011 REVISED Testimony of Dennis Lopez
originally submitted June 19, 2011 to the San Bernardino
Hearing of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

• the need for Spanish/English bilingual education programs and other Spanish/English
governmental services,
• the need for more programs which prepare these communities for higher education and
which provide job training,
• the need for greater protection of ethnic minority groups civil rights-including immigrant
rights,
• the need to address the lack of adequate health care services and facilities,
• the need to address the lack of Spanish-speaking health care professionals,
• the need for job creation,
• the need for more affordable housing and improvement in existing housing stock, and
• the need for more effective leadership of elected officials to address the issues listed
above.

Census data from 2010 provide ample evidence supporting the list of needs above. For
example, the 2010 Census data corresponding to MALDEF’s Voting Rights Act compliant
districts include:

• lower - median family income,
• higher than average numbers of residents who speak English “not at all” and who speak
English “less well”,
• low levels of adult educational attainment,
• high unemployment rates,
• high rates of high school drop-out,
• low percentages of adults with a college degree,
• higher percentages of residents under 5 years of age,
• lower median age of residents,
• concentrated poverty, and
• majority-ethnic minority populations.

One of the unfortunate examples of violations of civil rights and immigrant rights that link parts
of Riverside County (Moreno Valley) and San Bernardino County (the City of San Bernardino)
have shared is the targeting, or racial profiling, of Mexicano/Latino immigrants by local law
enforcement in traffic stops which result in the impounding of immigrant residents’ cars. There
are numerous California municipalities, outside of the Inland Empire, that have worked with
local community leaders to alter the discriminatory impact of this traffic enforcement practice
in such a manner which is consistent with state laws but which does not result in such
egregious violations of civil rights and immigrant rights.

For additional questions please contact me at:
June 28, 2011 REVISED Testimony of Dennis Lopez originally submitted June 19, 2011 to the San Bernardino Hearing of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

I ask the Redistricting Commission to consider revisions of your proposed map based on CVAP data on the Chicano/Latino population to ascertain whether Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act would necessitate inclusion of parts of Riverside County with parts of San Bernardino County including Colton, Bloomington and contiguous sections of the City of San Bernardino. The Commission’s strict adherence to Section 2 standards of the Voting Rights Act will ensure that the Inland Empire not become the site of a violation of Chicano/Latino voting rights.

I am aware that time for testimony is limited so I will close my testimony by offering the California Redistricting Commission members and staff my cell phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address should you have any questions of me regarding your important redistricting tasks.
To whom it may concern:
Keep Imperial County with San Diego not Coachella Valley. Keep Coachella Valley with Riverside County.
Janice Ricotta, La Quinta, California.
Kindly keep Imperial County w/ San Diego Not Coachella Valley...I live and vote in Palm Desert, CA

Blessings,

Karen Darras

"In God We Trust"

Please delete all email addresses from messages if you plan to forward them. PLEASE use BCC: for any and ALL emailings, instead of Cc: or To: If you help keep our addresses private, we might be able to cut down on computer identity theft and spam. Thank you!
Subject: redistricting
From: Karen Darras <karen.darras@domain.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 12:01 PM
To: [Redacted]

I live in Palm Desert, CA, Kindly deep Imperial Valley with San Diego..NOT Coachella Valley!!!!

--

Blessings,

Karen Darras

"In God We Trust"

Please delete all email addresses from messages if you plan to forward them. PLEASE use BCC: for any and ALL emailings, instead of Cc: or To: If you help keep our addresses private, we might be able to cut down on computer identity theft and spam. Thank you!
Subject: Redistricting
From: doris updyke <dorisupdyke1099@gmail.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 11:25 AM
To: 

I feel it is very important we keep the Coachella Valley connected to Riverside County......Imperial County should be a part of San Diego County. By studying the consequences of your decisions, I'm sure you will agree to keep Coachella Valley where it belongs - in Riverside County

Doris Updyke

Palm Desert, CA  92260
Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

Thank you for your service in insuring and insisting that the new redistricting process is just and equitable for all Californians.

The maps of the Coachella Valley in Riverside County, as currently drawn, do not reflect the growth of the Latino population over the past 10 years.

If draft one of the map remains as is, and Latinos actually end up with less influence than they have now, it would not be in keeping with the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA). Let’s keep in mind that Latinos comprise nearly 40% of California’s population. Whether these communities are kept together or split up makes all the difference in whether the process is fair. For too long splitting has been done as a way to limit access, and trust is being put in the Commission to end this practice.

The new Census results show that in the last decade, California’s Latino population accounted for 90% of the state’s growth, and as such, all maps should reflect this growth and create plentiful opportunities for increased Latino representation.

I’m concerned that in the Commission’s proposed maps of districts for both the Senate and Assembly, the Latino communities in Riverside County’s Coachella area and Imperial County area are split. These communities should be united in the same districts because of their distinctly shared social and economic interests. These should also be reflected in the U.S. Congressional District 45 which, as you’ve drawn it, does not show the inclusivity of the Coachella Valley and Imperial County communities.

Clearly, the Commission’s maps currently do not provide sufficient opportunities for fair Latino representation, as required by the VRA, and could halt Latino political progress in the State.

I want to urge the Commission to draw districts that provide Latinos an equal opportunity to elect Representatives of their choice.

Sincerely,

Barry Marine
Palm Springs
Subject: REDISTRICTING
From: Ruth Cottingame <ruth.cottingame@co.co.la.ca.us>
Date: 6/28/2011 8:17 AM
To: [Redacted]

KEEP IMPERIAL COUNTY WITH SAN DIEGO; NOT WITH COACHELLA VALLEY.

PLEASE KEEP COACHELLA VALLEY WITH RIVERSIDE COUNTY.

THANK YOU.

RUTH COTTINGAME

LA QUINTA, CA 92253
Subject: Redistricting Legislation
From: [Redacted]
Date: 6/28/2011 8:28 AM
To: [Redacted]

IMPORTANT:

Keep Imperial County with San Diego; NOT with Coachella Valley.
Please Keep Coachella Valley with Riverside County.

Hope Susan "Sue" Lapham

Indian Wells, Ca 92210
After reviewing the first draft maps for the congressional seat in the Coachella Valley, I am in complete agreement with the commission’s rendering.

The Palm Desert Chamber is the largest chamber in the Coachella Valley representing over 1,100 individual businesses. Many of our businesses depend on tourism and the dollars it brings in annually. In fact, the tourism industry is the driving economic force for the Coachella Valley.

To help sustain our tourism, we depend on legislators to help fund both Interstate 10 and the Palm Springs International Airport. The I-10 corridor is key to our valley, as it brings in visitors from all over Southern California.

From a marketing viewpoint, including the communities of Beaumont, Banning and Cabazon with the Coachella Valley makes perfect sense. The Morongo Casino in Cabazon markets itself as being minutes away from Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley.

I feel the current plan adequately fulfills the needs of businesses and residents alike in the Coachella Valley. I would ask the commission to maintain the current proposed maps in regards to the Coachella Valley.

Robin L. Calder
Desert Commercial Bank
Senior Vice President/Branch Manager
Palm Desert, Ca. 92260
Subject: Redistricting Commission
From: Eddie Ollmann <Westfield.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 3:38 PM
To: "'  "
CC: "'
Chairman Yao and Members of the Redistricting Commission:

My name is Eddie Ollmann and I am the General Manager at Westfield Palm Desert. After reviewing the first draft maps for the congressional seat in the Coachella Valley, I am in complete agreement with the commission's rendering.

Westfield Palm Desert is the largest single shopping center in the Coachella Valley generating almost $200 Million per year. Many of our businesses depend on tourism and the dollars it brings in annually. In fact, the tourism industry is the driving economic force for the Coachella Valley.

To help sustain our tourism, we depend on legislators to help fund both Interstate 10 and the Palm Springs International Airport. The I-10 corridor is key to our valley, as it brings in visitors from all over Southern California.

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Sincerely,
Eddie Ollmann

Eddie Ollmann / General Manager
Westfield Palm Desert
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Chairman Yao and Members of the Redistricting Commission:

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To help sustain our tourism, we depend on legislators to help fund both Interstate 10 and the Palm Springs International Airport. The I-10 corridor is key to our valley, as it brings in visitors from all over Southern California.

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I feel the current plan adequately fulfills the needs of businesses and residents alike in the Coachella Valley. I would ask the commission to maintain the current proposed maps in regards to the Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

Monica Vazquez
Assistant Director of Development
for Stewardship and Foundation Relations
Eisenhower Medical Center Foundation
Chairman Yao and Members of the Redistricting Commission:

My name is Barbara deBoom and I am the CEO for the Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce. After reviewing the first draft maps for the congressional seat in the Coachella Valley, I am in complete agreement with the commission's rendering.

The Palm Desert Chamber is the largest chamber in the Coachella Valley representing over 1,100 individual businesses. Many of our businesses depend on tourism and the dollars it brings in annually. In fact, the tourism industry is the driving economic force for the Coachella Valley.

To help sustain our tourism, we depend on legislators to help fund both Interstate 10 and the Palm Springs International Airport. The I-10 corridor is key to our valley, as it brings in visitors from all over Southern California.

From a marketing viewpoint, including the communities of Beaumont, Banning and Cabazon with the Coachella Valley makes perfect sense. The Morongo Casino in Cabazon markets itself as being minutes away from Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley.

I feel the current plan adequately fulfills the needs of businesses and residents alike in the Coachella Valley. I would ask the commission to maintain the current proposed maps in regards to the Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

Barbara deBoom, President/ CEO
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce

The best advertising in the world is a satisfied customer with a big mouth.
The worst advertising in the world is an un-satisfied customer with a big mouth.
To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Gabriel Perez and I am a long-time resident of Rancho Mirage. I have worked in the City of Coachella Planning Division as a Senior Planner for seven years and have observed the significant disparities between the resource rich City of Rancho Mirage and the disadvantaged communities of the Eastern Coachella Valley. The Eastern Coachella Valley has been disenfranchised in its current Congressional District since the district favors a Republican candidate overwhelmingly and there is little incentive for a Republican Congressional representative to be responsive to constituents in the Eastern Coachella Valley whom are overwhelmingly vote Democrat.

There have been considerable community concerns in the Eastern Coachella Valley related to environmental pollution in Mecca and the health effects on the children and families. The current Republican Congressional representative has been absent from discussions and community forums related to this issue and she is rarely visible in the Eastern Coachella Valley. This is disheartening because the issue is largely a Federal issue and the communities with the greatest needs are in the Eastern Coachella Valley based on any poverty, health, and education indicators.

The current proposed congressional district will continue to disenfranchise the communities of the Eastern Coachella. Republican candidates will have a distinct advantage and will have little incentive to prioritize the interests of the Eastern Coachella Valley. I encourage the redistricting committee to create a district that includes the Coachella Valley with the Imperial Valley since it would provide better opportunities for representatives to represent the interests of the Eastern Coachella Valley and there are clear geographic continuity of the area and its shared resource of the Salton Sea. The 80th state assembly district shares continuity between the Imperial and Coachella Valley and should continue to do so since it has demonstrated that the representatives in that boundary have been responsive to Eastern Coachella Valley needs.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Perez
June 28, 2011

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

I am a resident of the city of the community of Thermal in the Coachella Valley portion of eastern Riverside County. I have resided in the area for 28 years. I also serve as a Trustee of the Riverside County Board of Education representing Coachella Valley, Desert Sands, Palo Verde and El Centro Unified School District.

I am writing you today to express my disappointed in the tentative maps released by the Commission on June 10th.

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: 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,

Elizabeth R. Toledo
Trustee Area 6
Riverside County Board of Education
Round II-Comments on Tentative Maps

I am a resident of the City of Cathedral City, in the Coachella Valley portion of eastern Riverside County. I have resided here for 12 years. I was born and raised in California, then having lived in both southern California and northern California I am very aware of our California landscape and diverse population.

I join with others as outlined in this letter in my disappointment 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.
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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.

I sincerely urge the Commission to protect the areas of community interest as incorporated in the Voters Act.

Samuel H. Medrano
Samuel H. Medrano
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside
From: Tizoc Deaztlan <[email address]>
Date: 6/28/2011 5:00 PM
To: [Redacted]

From: Tizoc Deaztlan <[email address]>
Subject: Coachella Valley

Message Body:

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside

From: Emmanuel Marquez

Date: 6/28/2011 2:15 PM

To: 

From: Emmanuel Marquez

Subject: Indio CA

Message Body:

Dear Commissioners,

Are you purposely trying to split up the latino community by attaching east coachella valley with west coachella valley and adding Imperial County with San Diego?

I dont get it. We in the Eastern Coachella Valley have more in common with Imperial and they with us than with any other region. They want to be linked with us and us with them and yet you choose to ignore all of our commonalities and split us up.

Keep the Eastern Coachella Valley with Imperial County.

Emmanuel Marquez
Indio, Ca

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside
From: John Kopp <john.kopp@citizensredistricting.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 2:13 PM
To: [Redacted]

From: John Kopp <john.kopp@citizensredistricting.com>
Subject: 1st Draft Maps - No Change Needed

Message Body:
I'm not sure if you're aware of it -- hopefully not, since you're not supposed to be considering incumbents and/or candidates -- but with your first draft maps, at least two of the Assembly and Congressional districts, you've created very competitive districts. I hope you will leave the AD and CD maps alone when it comes time to come up with the 2nd series of maps.

When the politics are close, voters tend to get a better candidate stepping forward, and that can't but contribute to the discussion during the election season.

Finally, as I said back less than a week ago, basically forget about 'nesting' 2 adjacent ADs in to 1 SD. In fact, the 1st draft maps happened to 'nest' CONFLICTING COIs in some of the SD you came up with.

Good work so far; keep it up.

John Kopp
Eastvale, CA

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside
From: Don Smith <don.smith@example.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 2:02 PM
To: publicコメント@gmail.com

From: Don Smith <don.smith@example.com>
Subject: Assembly - Banning

Message Body:
First, I would like to say that I think the proposed maps overall are great and thus hesitate to complain. The decision to turn two assembly districts into one senate district seems obvious yet for some reason not what we did in past. I have lived mainly in Banning CA for 50 years and am a past mayor of the City. The job you did in keeping compact districts of interest within Riverside County is great. I realize that we only have a population for 4+ assembly districts and some part of the county had to be joined with another area beyond the county lines and the Pass Area including Banning seems to have been the area chosen. I have no idea what the Pass Area of Riverside County has in common with the Morongo Valley area of San Bernardino County. We are not even connected by a road within the district. We do have a connection with the Yucaips, Redlands, Loma Linda area of San Bernardino County. I would suggest/request that consideration be given to adding the Morongo Basis/29 Palms section of Riverside county to the district covering the desert portions of San Bernardino County, that population from the Redlands Area be added to the district including the Pass Area of Riverside County and the area be taken from the Mountains communities or Apple valley section to make up the population needed for that district. Basically just moving the population among those three districts to make more natural communities of interest. Thank you for your consideration.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside

From: Alejandrina Mercado <alejandrina.mercado@citizensredistricting.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 12:49 PM
To: Riverside

Message Body:
Please keep the Eastern Coachella Valley with Imperial County in the Assembly.

We have so much in common with them not Indian Wells.

And Imperial has nothing in common with San Diego.

Keep our latino population together. Do not split us up.

Thank you,
Alex Mercado
Indio, CA

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
From: Luisa Uribe <luisa.uribe@citizenredistricting.org>

Subject: Coachella Valley

Message Body:
As a resident of Indio, CA I am worried about the recent maps that were released. I don't know why my city was attached to cities to the west of me that are not like my city and not to Imperial County to where we share a lot.

Please keep the Eastern Coachella Valley with Imperial County please.

Thanks,
Luisa Uribe
Indio, CA

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside

From: Eduardo Hernandez <[redacted]>
Date: 6/28/2011 1:35 AM
To: [redacted]

Message Body:
Hello again! I was just reviewing the video of the meeting in San Bernardino last sunday, and there was a lot of people that said that they wanted Perris included in the Riv-Moval congressional district. The problem as the commission put it was that it does not meet the right amount of population. However, I suggest that Norco and Eastvale be removed from the congressional map, and probably part of Woodcrest too. Therefore, the new map would be Jurupa Valley, Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Perris. I agree with the people from Perris that they commerce more with Moreno Valley and parts of Riverside then they do with Corona, Lake Elsinore, or the Temecula Valley. Therefore, it would meet the community interest requirement and probably the population requirement.

I know it is a very tough job that you guys have, but I hope you do your best to consider the public comments given through out California.

Thank you again, and I am very pleased with the job you have done so far.

Best,
Eduardo Hernandez

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Message Body:

I'm not sure if you're aware of it -- hopefully not, since you're not supposed to be considering incumbents and/or candidates -- but with your first draft maps, at least two of the Assembly and Congressional districts, you've created very competitive districts. I hope you will leave the AD and CD maps alone when it comes time to come up with the 2nd series of maps.

When the politics are close, voters tend to get a better candidate stepping forward, and that can't but contribute to the discussion during the election season.

Finally, as I said back less than a week ago, basically forget about 'nesting' 2 adjacent ADs in to 1 SD. In fact, the 1st draft maps happened to 'nest' CONFLICTING COIs in some of the SD you came up with.

Good work so far; keep it up.

John Kopp
Eastvale, CA

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside
From: Don Smith <don.smith@riverside.ca.us>
Date: 6/28/2011 2:02 PM
To: 

From: Don Smith <don.smith@riverside.ca.us>
Subject: Assembly - Banning

Message Body:
First, I would like to say that I think the proposed maps overall are great and thus hesitate to complain. The decision to turn two assembly districts into one senate district seems obvious yet for some reason not what we did in past.
I have lived mainly in Banning CA for 50 years and am a past mayor of the City. The job you did in keeping compact districts of interest within Riverside County is great. I realize that we only have a population for 4+ assembly districts and some part of the county had to be joined with another area beyond the county lines and the Pass Area including Banning seems to have been the area chosen.
I have no idea what the Pass Area of Riverside County has in common with the Morongo Valley area of San Bernardino County. We are not even connected by a road within the district. We do have a connection with the Yucaips, Redlands, Loma Linda area of San Bernardino County.
I would suggest/request that consideration be given to adding the Morongo Basis/29 Palms section of Riverside county to the district covering the desert portions of San Bernardino County, that population from the Redlands Area be added to the district including the Pass Area of Riverside County and the area be taken from the Mountains communities or Apple valley section to make up the population needed for that district. Basically just moving the population among those three districts to make more natural communities of interest.
Thank you for your consideration.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside

From: Alejandrina Mercado <alejandrina.mercado@gmail.com>

Date: 6/28/2011 12:49 PM

To: 

From: Alejandrina Mercado <alejandrina.mercado@gmail.com>

Subject: Indio CA

Message Body:
Please keep the Eastern Coachella Valley with Imperial County in the Assembly.

We have so much in common with them not Indian Wells.

And Imperial has nothing in common with San Diego.

Keep our latino population together. Do not split us up.

Thank you,
Alex Mercado
Indio, CA

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside

From: Luisa Uribe <luisa.uribe@email.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 12:38 PM
To: public.commission@citizensredistricting.com

From: Luisa Uribe <luisa.uribe@email.com>
Subject: Coachella Valley

Message Body:
As a resident of Indio, CA I am worried about the recent maps that were released. I dont know why my city was attached to cities to the west of me that are not like my city and not to Imperial County to where we share alot.

Please keep the Eastern Coachella Valley with Imperial County please.

Thanks,
Luisa Uribe
Indio, CA

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 2 - Riverside
From: Eduardo Hernandez <[redacted]>
Date: 6/28/2011 1:35 AM
To: [redacted]

From: Eduardo Hernandez <[redacted]>
Subject: Congressional Map

Message Body:
Hello again! I was just reviewing the video of the meeting in San Bernardino last sunday, and there was a lot of people that said that they wanted Perris included in the Riv-Moval congressional district. The problem as the commission put it was that it does not meet the right amount of population. However, I suggest that Norco and Eastvale be removed from the congressional map, and probably part of Woodcrest too. Therefore, the new map would be Jurupa Valley, Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Perris. I agree with the people from Perris that they commerce more with Moreno Valley and parts of Riverside then they do with Corona, Lake Elsinore, or the Temecula Valley. Therefore, it would meet the community interest requirement and probably the population requirement.

I know it is a very tough job that you guys have, but I hope you do your best to consider the public comments given through out California.

Thank you again, and I am very pleased with the job you have done so far.

Best,
Eduardo Hernandez

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
June 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed boundary changes in your First Draft District Map. I strongly object to separating the Coachella Valley (eastern Riverside County) from Imperial County.

I have lived and voted in the Coachella Valley for over 20 years and I previously worked for eight years in this shared region, eastern Riverside County and Imperial County. The Coachella Valley and Imperial County share many similarities and public projects.

The primary public project is the Salton Sea which is shared by Riverside and Imperial Counties. The State of California created a Joint Powers Agency called the Salton Sea Authority. The Salton Sea Authority was created on June 2, 1993 by the state of California “for the purpose of ensuring the beneficial uses of the Salton Sea”. It has representatives from the Coachella Valley Water District, the Imperial Irrigation District, Riverside County, Imperial County and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. Last year (2010) the State of California created a Salton Sea Council to oversee the restoration projects of the Salton Sea and begin implementation of its proposed projects. The State has designated the council to be represented by both Counties since they share the Salton Sea and will share impacts to both Counties.

The current 80th Assembly district, the Coachella Valley and Imperial County, share similar characteristics in water usage and water issues, agriculture, Native American cultural heritage, farm worker migrant population, rural matters, air quality non-attainment, open space and desert biology. The eastern Riverside County and Imperial County also share transportation concerns since Interstate Freeway 10 is a NAFTA Corridor bringing heavy goods movement through our shared valleys.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to your proposal to change and separate our two valleys. I feel it would not be in the best interest or fair to our shared valleys to separate our common communities. Please keep Coachella Valley and Imperial County together.

Sincerely,
Patricia Cooper
June 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting Boundary Adjustment Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

As local elected officials, we understand the challenges involved in determining the appropriate redistricting boundaries for our State and we would like to commend the Citizens Redistricting Commission’s efforts to date.

Although the City of Temecula agrees with the draft Assembly and Senate maps, the City is opposed to the Commission’s recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries. The area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. While the draft Assembly and Senate district maps place the City of Temecula within one district within Riverside County, the draft congressional map severs a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District.

It is the City of Temecula’s contention that, while this area has been well served by Congressman Darrell Issa, an important goal for the Commission is to keep communities together. Therefore, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County’s congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.

We urge you to reconsider your recommendation to divide the congressional election boundaries within the City of Temecula and to revise the draft congressional map to include all of the City of Temecula within the new PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.

Sincerely,

Ron Roberts
Mayor

cc: City Council
June 27, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

RE: Proposed Redistricting Lines – 45th Congressional and 80th State Assembly Districts

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In the 15 years we have resided in the Coachella Valley we have seen the Latino population in region rapidly growing. We have also seen reports that this segment of the population could easily grow to 50% or more. With regard to Geographic Integrity/Contiguity, and Communities of Interest, as you have been working diligently to apply to the 45th CD and the 80th AD, we would like to give you our input.

We are quite concerned with the initial decision to include the Imperial Valley with San Diego County, and do not understand how that can meet the above criteria, as the Imperial Valley and Riverside County are one vast and continuous desert community reaching from the Banning Pass area to Blythe, and south to the Mexican border. The populations of these two counties are closely aligned and share the following Communities of Interest:

1. The Latino community is also predominant in Imperial County and growing daily in large numbers in both counties. They share common heritage, language, customs, interests, and education, economic bonds and livelihood. This vibrant segment should not be legislatively divided.

2. Beyond the large and growing number of Latinos with common interests, Riverside and Imperial contain vast agricultural areas, produce similar crops, and are supported with similar irrigation systems.

3. The very existence of the Salton Sea; California’s largest inland body of water has been in jeopardy for many years now, which is in large measure the result of current divisions in legislative responsibility for this valuable resource. This has caused numerous agencies with conflicting interests at all levels, pulling against each other instead of bringing about a solution. The result has been that next to nothing has or is being done to preserve this precious State asset. With a unified legislative responsibility and singularity of purpose for the Salton Sea, the chances of preserving the Sea would be greatly increased.

4. Riverside and Imperial Counties have also been targeted by our Governor to soon be the world’s leading producer of alternate energy, in particular solar and geo-thermal. If this goal is to be reached, we must have strong, consistent legislative representation. Dividing this priceless state
asset into multiple legislative districts will harm, not help the State of California to be the alternative energy capitol of the nation.

Historically, Imperial County has been artificially connected with the San Diego metropolitan community by only a narrow strip of land supporting Interstate Hwy 8, through desolate desert and across high mountains. Understanding Imperial County, its population, its agricultural landscape, and its ethnic and fundamental simplicity, makes it hard for us to understand what it could possibly have in common with the urban, upscale developments of the San Diego area. On the other hand, there are great commonalities between Imperial and Riverside Counties.

We also question the proposed new boundaries with regard to the Inland Empire communities of Banning, Beaumont, San Jacinto, Hemet and Calimesa. Much as is the case with Imperial County being connected to San Diego by a winding route over a significant mountain range, these communities in the Inland Empire lie in the mountain pass, or on the other side of the Mt. San Jacinto range. These Inland Empire communities, by virtue of their population origins, their communication links and their employment all face west, toward the vast Los Angeles metropolitan area. They are far more connected, in countless ways, to the Los Angeles basin than they are to our desolate, Coachella Valley desert.

Finally, Imperial County and Riverside County are so similar, they should be one community. It is imperative that our state political boundaries recognize our strong emotional, societal and economic bonds in these two counties.

We respectfully request that you consider the above and redress the proposed boundaries for the 45th CD and the 80th AD. It is our view that it would best accomplish your task and mission which you have undoubtedly been working hard to do, which at best has been a most difficult task. Combining the common interests, contiguous areas and populations of these two counties will put this desert region on an exciting path toward sound economic development, which is of primary concern to all of us. It will also create greater citizen satisfaction at finally being recognized and understood.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Patricia and Eugene Wyskocil
Subject: Important ~ 6/28/11
From: Sharon French <sharonfrench@example.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 7:02 AM
To: [Redacted]

Keep Imperial County with San Diego; NOT with Coachella Valley. Please keep Coachella Valley with Riverside County.

Thank you,
Sharon French
Indian Wells, CA  92210
June 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting Boundary Adjustment Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

As local elected officials, we understand the challenges involved in determining the appropriate redistricting boundaries for our State and we would like to commend the Citizens Redistricting Commission’s efforts to date.

Although the City of Temecula agrees with the draft Assembly and Senate maps, the City is opposed to the Commission’s recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries. The area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. While the draft Assembly and Senate district maps place the City of Temecula within one district within Riverside County, the draft congressional map severs a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District.

It is the City of Temecula’s contention that, while this area has been well served by Congressman Darrell Issa, an important goal for the Commission is to keep communities together. Therefore, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County’s congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.

We urge you to reconsider your recommendation to divide the congressional election boundaries within the City of Temecula and to revise the draft congressional map to include all of the City of Temecula within the new I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.

Sincerely,

Ron Roberts
Mayor

cc: City Council
CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT

TO: City Manager/City Council
FROM: Patrick Richardson, Director of Planning and Redevelopment
DATE: June 28, 2011
SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting Recommendations

PREPARED BY: Stuart Fisk, Senior Planner

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION’S RECOMMENDATION TO DIVIDE THE CITY OF TEMECULA INTO TWO SEPARATE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION BOUNDARIES AND REQUESTING THAT ALL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW PRS/I-15 CORRIDOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

BACKGROUND: California citizens, via a State Initiative, required that an independent commission redraw State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional boundaries in accordance with data received from the 2010 U.S. Census. The goal was to stop the State legislature gerrymandering and to set up districts that made logical sense, and to balance communities. One important facet, however, was to keep communities together.

The area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. The draft Assembly and Senate maps include all of Temecula within one district. However, the Redistricting Commission has determined in its initial draft analysis to sever a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District. While this area has been well served by Congressman Darrell Issa, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County’s congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.
FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution No. 11-
Letter to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
RESOLUTION NO. 11-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA OPPosing THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDEistricting COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO DIVIDE THE CITY OF TEMECULA INTO TWO SEPARATE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION BOUNDARIES AND REQUESTING THAT ALL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District WITHIN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

WHEREAS, California citizens, via a State Initiative, required that an independent commission redraw State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional boundaries in accordance with data received from the 2010 U.S. Census.

WHEREAS, the goal for the California Citizens Redistricting Commission was to stop State legislature gerrymandering and to set up districts that made logical sense, and to balance communities. Additionally, an important goal for the Commission was to keep communities together.

WHEREAS, the area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. The draft Assembly and Senate maps include all of Temecula within one district. However, the Redistricting Commission has determined in its initial draft analysis to sever a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District.

WHEREAS, consistent with the goal of keeping communities together, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County's congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA that the City of Temecula formally opposes the proposed California Citizens Redistricting Commission's recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries and requests that the Redistricting Commission revise the boundary map to include all of the City of Temecula in the new PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA that the City of Temecula authorizes its Council and city staff to communicate its opposition to the proposed California Citizens Redistricting Commission's recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries and to request that all of the City of Temecula be included in the new PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Temecula this 28th day of June, 2011.

__________________________________________
Ron Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____________________________________
Susan W. Jones, MMC
City Clerk

[SEAL]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA     )
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE     ) ss
CITY OF TEMECULA         )

I, Susan W. Jones, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Temecula, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. - was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Temecula at a meeting thereof held on the day of , , by the following vote:

AYES:         COUNCIL MEMBERS:
NOES:         COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ABSENT:       COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:      COUNCIL MEMBERS:

_____________________________________
Susan W. Jones, MMC
City Clerk
June 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting Boundary Adjustment Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

As local elected officials, we understand the challenges involved in determining the appropriate redistricting boundaries for our State and we would like to commend the Citizens Redistricting Commission’s efforts to date.

Although the City of Temecula agrees with the draft Assembly and Senate maps, the City is opposed to the Commission’s recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries. The area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. While the draft Assembly and Senate district maps place the City of Temecula within one district within Riverside County, the draft congressional map severs a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District.

It is the City of Temecula’s contention that, while this area has been well served by Congressman Darrell Issa, an important goal for the Commission is to keep communities together. Therefore, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County’s congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.

We urge you to reconsider your recommendation to divide the congressional election boundaries within the City of Temecula and to revise the draft congressional map to include all of the City of Temecula within the new PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.

Sincerely,

Ron Roberts
Mayor

cc: City Council
Chairman Yao and Members of the Redistricting Commission:

My name is Ian Helmstadter and I am a Telecommunications Consultant in the Coachella Valley. After reviewing the first draft maps for the congressional seat in the Coachella Valley, I am in complete agreement with the commission's rendering.

The Palm Desert Chamber is the largest chamber in the Coachella Valley representing over 1,100 individual businesses. Many of our businesses depend on tourism and the dollars it brings in annually. In fact, the tourism industry is the driving economic force for the Coachella Valley.

To help sustain our tourism, we depend on legislators to help fund both Interstate 10 and the Palm Springs International Airport. The I-10 corridor is key to our valley, as it brings in visitors from all over Southern California.

From a marketing viewpoint, including the communities of Beaumont, Banning and Cabazon with the Coachella Valley makes perfect sense. The Morongo Casino in Cabazon markets itself as being minutes away from Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley.

I feel the current plan adequately fulfills the needs of businesses and residents alike in the Coachella Valley. I would ask the commission to maintain the current proposed maps in regards to the Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

Ian Helmstadter
Automated Telecom
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Visit the link below to view custom email solutions like hosted exchange that includes a free copy of Outlook 2007
Dear Commissioners,

I testified before you in Palm Springs on May 12.

My request was simple, keep the Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley together in legislative districts. Like many latinos in both Coachella and Imperial, when I first migrated to this country I was a migrant farm worker.

I began in the Imperial Valley and followed crops to the Coachella Valley. Like many people I know, we have family, cultural, and historical roots in both the Coachella Valley and Imperial County.

All though I was able to eventually gain citizenship, go to college and begin to teach in Coachella, the lives of thousands of Coachella Valley and Imperial County families still work in 115 degree heat to help pick crops for our dinner tables.

These workers, the life stream of our economy in both Imperial and Coachella should not be forgotten nor their political power severed.

Add those community interests to other economic ones such as the Salton Sea and the work being done on renewable energy, and it is a shock that you would choose to separate these interests.

You are dividing a population of predominantly rural, low income latinos.

Please reconsider and attach the Coachella Valley to Imperial County.

Thank you,

Amalia DeAztlan
Bermuda Dunes, CA
June 28, 2011

Dear members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

The citizens of California, via a statewide initiative, required that an independent commission redraw State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional boundaries in accordance with data from the 2010 U.S. Census. Among the goals was to stop gerrymandering in the state Legislature and to establish district boundaries that make logical sense.

Another goal was to balance communities, with the important facet of keeping communities together. While we believe the Redistricting Commission has done a commendable job thus far, there is concern about some of its recommendations. The City of Temecula has been a progressive city in Riverside County since the area was founded in 1859. However, the Redistricting Commission determined in its initial draft analysis to sever this important Riverside County city and place it into a San Diego Congressional district. While this area has been well served by Congressman Darrell Issa, Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County’s Congressional delegation.

By virtue of a unanimous vote of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors on June 28, 2011, we urge the Redistricting Commission to include Temecula in the new 15 Corridor Congressional District and keep the city whole, within a district inside Riverside County. The Board also is steadfast that any changes contemplated should not upset the commission’s previous determinations to keep other communities of interest intact within Riverside County.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Jeff Stone, Third District
Chairman Bob Buster, First District
Supervisor John Tavaglione, Second District
Supervisor John Benoit, Fourth District
Supervisor Marion Ashley, Fifth District
(Sent to the members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission on behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors by Raymond Smith, Riverside County public information officer.

Please note: The County Administrative Center will be closed every Friday per order of the Board of Supervisors. Business hours for the County Executive Office are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This email is confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure.

If you are not the author's intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error please delete all copies, both electronic and printed, and contact the author immediately.)
Keep Imperial Valley with San Diego, not Coachella Valley.

Jerome F Green
Palm Desert, CA, 92260

Thank you.
The social and economic interests of the Coachella Valley coincide with those of Riverside County and the Valley should remain within that district.

With all the lack of common sense and forethought prevalent in our government entities and our politicians these days, I can only be hopeful that those in charge of re-districting show some sense of intelligence that seems to be missing in our public officials these days.

Thank you,
Pamela Levin
Palm Desert, CA
Dear Commissioners,

I testified before the commission in San Diego on June 20, 2011.

My message was simple, please keep the Eastern Coachella Valley and Imperial County in the same Assembly district.

Over the months of testifying I have heard great community of interest arguments for why they should remain intact including but not limited to:

The Salton Sea
Emerging renewable energy sector
Agriculture
High Latino Population
Cultural Similarities
Imperial Irrigation District
Highway 86 and HWY 111

Please reconsider, and join the Eastern Coachella Valley with Imperial County in the Assembly.

Thank you,

Tizoc DeAztlan
Bermuda Dunes, CA
Mr. Wilcox,

Thank you for speaking with me this morning regarding the City of Temecula’s opposition to the proposed Congressional District boundary which splits our City between Riverside and San Diego Counties. Attached are the draft documents opposing the Commission’s proposal. After Council takes action tonight, I will email the executed documents to you for distribution to the Commission.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

Patrick

Patrick R. Richardson, AICP
Director of Planning & Redevelopment
City of Temecula
CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Patrick Richardson, Director of Planning and Redevelopment

DATE: June 28, 2011

SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting Recommendations

PREPARED BY: Stuart Fisk, Senior Planner

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO DIVIDE THE CITY OF TEMECULA INTO TWO SEPARATE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION BOUNDARIES AND REQUESTING THAT ALL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW PRS/I-15 CORRIDOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

BACKGROUND: California citizens, via a State Initiative, required that an independent commission redraw State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional boundaries in accordance with data received from the 2010 U.S. Census. The goal was to stop the State legislature gerrymandering and to set up districts that made logical sense, and to balance communities. One important facet, however, was to keep communities together.

The area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. The draft Assembly and Senate maps include all of Temecula within one district. However, the Redistricting Commission has determined in its initial draft analysis to sever a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District. While this area has been well served by Congressman Darrell Issa, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County's congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.
FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution No. 11-
Letter to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
RESOLUTION NO. 11-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION’S RECOMMENDATION TO DIVIDE THE CITY OF TEMECULA INTO TWO SEPARATE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION BOUNDARIES AND REQUESTING THAT ALL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW PRS/I-15 CORRIDOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

WHEREAS, California citizens, via a State Initiative, required that an independent commission redraw State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional boundaries in accordance with data received from the 2010 U.S. Census.

WHEREAS, the goal for the California Citizens Redistricting Commission was to stop State legislature gerrymandering and to set up districts that made logical sense, and to balance communities. Additionally, an important goal for the Commission was to keep communities together.

WHEREAS, the area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. The draft Assembly and Senate maps include all of Temecula within one district. However, the Redistricting Commission has determined in its initial draft analysis to sever a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District.

WHEREAS, consistent with the goal of keeping communities together, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County’s congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA that the City of Temecula formally opposes the proposed California Citizens Redistricting Commission’s recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries and requests that the Redistricting Commission revise the boundary map to include all of the City of Temecula in the new PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA that the City of Temecula authorizes its Council and city staff to communicate its opposition to the proposed California Citizens Redistricting Commission’s recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries and to request that all of the City of Temecula be included in the new PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Temecula this 28th day of June, 2011.

______________________________
Ron Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:

__________________________
Susan W. Jones, MMC
City Clerk

[SEAL]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ) ss
CITY OF TEMECULA )

I, Susan W. Jones, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Temecula, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. - was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Temecula at a meeting thereof held on the day of , , by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

______________________________
Susan W. Jones, MMC
City Clerk
June 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting Boundary Adjustment Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

As local elected officials, we understand the challenges involved in determining the appropriate redistricting boundaries for our State and we would like to commend the Citizens Redistricting Commission's efforts to date.

Although the City of Temecula agrees with the draft Assembly and Senate maps, the City is opposed to the Commission's recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries. The area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. While the draft Assembly and Senate district maps place the City of Temecula within one district within Riverside County, the draft congressional map severs a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District.

It is the City of Temecula's contention that, while this area has been well served by Congressman Darrell Issa, an important goal for the Commission is to keep communities together. Therefore, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County's congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.

We urge you to reconsider your recommendation to divide the congressional election boundaries within the City of Temecula and to revise the draft congressional map to include all of the City of Temecula within the new PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.

Sincerely,

Ron Roberts
Mayor

cc: City Council
Subject: CD-45 Redistricting
From: Edward Doyle <edwarddoyle26@gmail.com>
Date: 6/28/2011 4:11 PM
To: Redistricting Commissioners,

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

Thank you for your service in insuring and insisting that the new redistricting process is just and equitable for all Californians. As a year around resident of the Coachella Valley I am aware of needs and concerns of those who live here the year around. Many of them are hotel and domestic help who have different needs than those who live elsewhere. Some of those concerns are school education and other family issues related to those who have immigrated from other nations.

The maps of the Coachella Valley in Riverside County, as currently drawn, do not reflect the growth of the Latino population over the past 10 years.

If draft one of the map remains as is, and Latinos actually end up with less influence than they have now, it would not be in keeping with the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA). Let’s keep in mind that Latinos comprise nearly 40% of California’s population. Whether these communities are kept together or split up makes all the difference in whether the process is fair. For too long splitting has been done as a way to limit access, and trust is being put in the Commission to end this practice.

The new Census results show that in the last decade, California’s Latino population accounted for 90% of the state’s growth, and as such, all maps should reflect this growth and create plentiful opportunities for increased Latino representation.

I’m concerned that in the Commission’s proposed maps of districts for both the Senate and Assembly, the Latino communities in Riverside County’s Coachella area and Imperial County area are split. These communities should be united in the same districts because of their distinctly shared social and economic interests. These should also be reflected in the U.S. Congressional District 45 which, as you’ve drawn it, does not show the inclusivity of the Coachella Valley and Imperial County communities.

Clearly, the Commission’s maps currently do not provide sufficient opportunities for fair Latino representation, as required by the VRA, and could halt Latino political progress in the State.

I want to urge the Commission to draw districts that provide Latinos an equal opportunity to elect Representatives of their choice.

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. DOYLE
Retired Major USAF Medical Service Corps.
Palm Desert, California
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Subject: CD-45 Redistricting
From: [Redacted]
Date: 6/28/2011 2:58 PM
To: [Redacted]

Dear Chairman Yao and Members of the Commission:

I was very disappointed to see that once again the desert communities were divided up into multiple Congressional Districts. The districts in the region seem to be running about a decade or more behind what is reflected on maps in relation to the growth eastward, and a huge influx of minorities largely of Hispanic decent.

For too long the area that I am in (the 45th Congressional District) has been under-represented because a focus on the other side of mountain range has taken precedence. For example we have been unable to see any movement towards a light rail commuter train to tie into L.A. Metro.

We are facing a huge environmental disaster in what continues to unfold as it relates to the Salton Sea. This natural wonder is left to destruction due to it’s being within more than one Congressional District.

We also are very under-served as it relates to issues of health. Our county hospital is all the way on the other side of the mountain in Moreno Valley. There is a lack of public transportation which many of those in under-served areas are reliant on to get there. Being out of work, I am forced to use MISP and the only place I can get service is at the hospital. Not to mention I can only fill my prescriptions at the hospital pharmacy under this plan, there is no where else to go in all of Riverside County. But since my medical condition currently will not allow me to drive I have no way of filling the prescriptions or getting to the hospital. The next time I have an appointment I will be forced to scrounge for a ride or wait another 6-8 weeks for a reschedule of the appointment. In the meantime all my prescriptions go unfilled. We warrant our own public health care facility based optimally in Indio or Coachella but as long as we are a split community the need is sadly ignored.

The residents of our desert communities in the Coachella Valley and Imperial County share rich social and economic interests that cannot afford yet another decade of neglect. For too long the desert area has been looked at as simply a resort area for the well off. There are now, and will continue to be, many who make their homes here year-round. Our average citizens are getting the short end of the stick, to say nothing about how this creates conditions where Mexican farm workers suffer tragic conditions unworthy of our country, such as in Duroville, which was put into receivership by a district court. The residents of the desert communities rich and poor alike, should be within a single shared Congressional District and not fragmented and fighting for resources that go to the western side of the district into San Bernardino, Moreno Valley, etc.

The mountain range that now divides the 45th Congressional District is both a physical barrier and a psychological one, that causes a detrimental break in continuity for addressing the needs and commonalities of the desert. We are counting on you to protect our under-served desert communities and combined them into one district.

Sincerely,
George Raymond
Palm Springs, CA 92264
Subject: CD 45 Redistricting
From: CE Krause
Date: 6/28/2011 10:27 AM
To: <>

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

I will thank you to ensure and insist that the outcome of the new redistricting process is just and equitable for all Californians.

The maps of the Coachella Valley in Riverside County, as currently drawn, do not reflect the growth of the Latino population over the past 10 years. Latinos comprise nearly 40% of California's population, and the new Census results show that in the last decade, California’s Latino population accounted for 90% of the state’s growth overall. This being the case, all maps should reflect this growth and create plentiful opportunities for increased Latino representation.

The fact that you voted 14-0 to accept the Draft #1 redistricting maps for this portion of Southern California indicates to me that you ignored our input during the recent public hearings in Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs. I participated in the more recent San Bernardino public hearings - on Fathers Day Sunday. You made a very poor choice that discouraged participation by residents of desert communities. No other public hearings were scheduled on a holiday or Sunday, which emphasizes the bias you showed. Not only that, but if the current draft #1 maps are not redrawn, Latinos because of their burgeoning numbers will actually end up with less influence than they have now. As you must be aware, this would not be in keeping with the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA).

I’m concerned that in the Commission’s proposed maps of districts for both the Senate and Assembly, the Latino communities in Riverside County’s Coachella Valley and Imperial County are split, making for blatant incongruity. These communities should be united in the same districts because of their distinctly shared social and economic interests. These should also be reflected in the U.S. Congressional District 45 which, as drawn in draft #1, does not show the inclusivity of the Coachella Valley and Imperial County communities.

The Commission’s maps clearly do not provide sufficient opportunities for fair Latino representation, as required by the VRA. The Latino political progress in the State will come to a halt if Latino residents in communities of Riverside County’s Coachella Valley and in Imperial County are thus disenfranchised. This is exactly the kind of thing we expect you to avoid!

Whether these communities are kept together or split up makes all the difference in whether the process is fair. For too long splitting them up has had the effect of limiting access to public services and so on. It's time to stop intentionally sacrificing Latino to business interests. Trust is being put in the Commission to end this practice.

I strongly urge the Commissioners to redraw districts to provide Latinos an equal opportunity to elect Representatives of their choice!

Thank you for your consideration,

CE Krause
[address]

7/5/2011 2:03 PM
Subject: Resolution Opposing Congressional Boundary

From: Patrick Richardson

Date: 6/28/2011 8:47 PM

To: Mr. Wilcox,

CC: All Council Members

As we discussed this morning, attached is the executed City of Temecula City Council Resolution opposing the proposed Congressional District Map which split the City of Temecula into two districts.

As we discussed please provide this resolution, along with the signed letter from our Mayor sent earlier to the Commission for their review.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to call.

Best Regards,

Patrick

Patrick R. Richardson, AICP
Director of Planning & Redevelopment
City of Temecula

Attachments:

BoundaryReso.pdf 130 KB
RESOLUTION NO. 11-49

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION’S RECOMMENDATION TO DIVIDE THE CITY OF TEMECULA INTO TWO SEPARATE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION BOUNDARIES AND REQUESTING THAT ALL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW PRS/I-15 CORRIDOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

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WHEREAS, the area that ultimately became the City of Temecula has been a part of Riverside County since the County was formed in 1893. The draft Assembly and Senate maps include all of Temecula within one district. However, the Redistricting Commission has determined in its initial draft analysis to sever a large portion of the City of Temecula into a San Diego County Congressional District.

WHEREAS, consistent with the goal of keeping communities together, all of Temecula logically and politically should remain a part of Riverside County’s congressional delegation, much like the draft Senate and Assembly maps.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA that the City of Temecula formally opposes the proposed California Citizens Redistricting Commission’s recommendation to divide the City of Temecula into two separate congressional election boundaries and requests that the Redistricting Commission revise the boundary map to include all of the City of Temecula in the new PRS/I-15 Corridor Congressional District within Riverside County.

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I hereby certify, under the penalty of perjury that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an original on deposit within the records of the City of Temecula, this 29th day of May, 2011.

SUSAN W. JONES, MMC, CITY CLERK

R:/Resos 2011/Resos 11-49
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Temecula this 28th day of June, 2011.

Ron Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan W. Jones, MMC
City Clerk

[SEAL]

I hereby certify, under the penalty of perjury that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an original on deposit within the records of the City of Temecula, this 28th day of June, 2011.

SUSAN W. JONES, MMC, City Clerk
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE       ) ss
CITY OF TEMECULA       

I, Susan W. Jones, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Temecula, do hereby certify that
the foregoing Resolution No. 11-49 was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of
the City of Temecula at a meeting thereof held on the 28th day of July, 2011, by the
following vote:

AYES:  5  COUNCIL MEMBERS:  Comerchero, Edwards, Naggar,
            Washington, Roberts

NOES:  0  COUNCIL MEMBERS:  None

ABSENT:  0  COUNCIL MEMBERS:  None

ABSTAIN:  0  COUNCIL MEMBERS:  None

Susan W. Jones, MMC
City Clerk

I hereby certify, under the penalty of perjury that the
above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an
original on deposit within the records of the City of
Temecula, this 28th day of July, 2011.

SUSAN W. JONES, MMC, City Clerk