

RECEIVED JUN 27 2011



CITY OF LOMPOC

Mayor
John H. Linn

June 21, 2011

State of California
Citizens Redistricting Commission
Attn: Daniel Claypool, Executive Director
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

The City Council of the City of Lompoc strongly opposes any proposed redistricting map plan recommended by the Citizens Redistricting Commission that would divide the City of Lompoc and its citizens between two State Assembly and Senate Districts.

At the regular City Council meeting of June 21, 2011, the Lompoc City Council met and considered the redistricting effort being conducted by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. At this meeting, we concurred that the "Communities of Interest" concept and keeping cities "whole" should be the most important criteria considered in the redistricting process. Communities of interest is defined as that which brings people together with shared interests, and the ability of people to relate to one another's social, political, and economic interests.

Contrary to the "Communities of Interest" concept, communities split through redistricting efforts significantly lose, due primarily to the negative effects resulting from a weakened collective electorate voice and potential low voter turn out at the polls, resulting in reduced community representation. Furthermore, the City of Lompoc has recently been advised by the Santa Barbara County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor Elections Division that dividing the City of Lompoc between two Senate and two Assembly Districts will result in an increase in election costs. For these reasons, the City Council of the City of Lompoc endorses State redistricting plans that would keep Lompoc and other Santa Barbara County cities whole.

The Lompoc City Council also expressed their need to clarify a great misconception on the part of the California Citizens Redistricting Commissioners as noted in the transcript excerpt of the Commission meeting held on June 1, 2011, which reads:

"...Lompoc is the only city split... it's a very small split... this is a correctional facility."

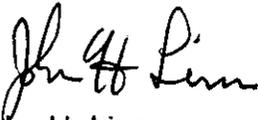
The City Council of the City of Lompoc and its citizens are gravely concerned about these erroneous statements, and would convey to the Commissioners that the proposed split

impacts a thriving, politically-engaged community population. The redistricting proposal is greater than "a very small split." Moreover, the City of Lompoc is far more than a correctional facility.

The City Council of the City of Lompoc does not approve of redistricting plans that would result in our City split between two Districts, and we request that every attempt be made by the Commission to keep Lompoc and other Santa Barbara County cities whole. Therefore, we strongly request the Citizens Redistricting Commission consider a redistricting plan in line with the "Communities of Interest" concept, and make every attempt to keep Lompoc and other Santa Barbara County cities whole.

Please give this matter your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Linn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John H. Linn
Mayor, City of Lompoc

c: Lompoc City Council
California Citizens Redistricting Commissioners

REGION 5: SANTA BARBARA

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COALITION OF LABOR AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS
OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
[REDACTED] SANTA MARIA, CA 93456

June 22, 2011

The Honorable Dr. Gabino Aguirre, Chairman
and Members of the Commission
Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Chairman Aguirre and Commissioners:

We are writing on behalf of the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business of Santa Barbara County (COLAB SBC) which represents over 1000 members engaged in farming, ranching, construction, mineral extraction, transportation, technology, hospitality, financial services, engineering, and numerous other enterprises. Our labor members represent building trades, firefighting, and policing. The employees and families of our members constitute tens of thousands of individuals who live and work in Santa Barbara County.

We are very concerned that the first draft map boundaries for the proposed SBWVENT Assembly District and the proposed CENTRAL COAST Senate District violate the Commission's stated requirements as follows:

1. State Assembly District SBWVE. The draft proposed SBWVENT district violates the Commission's standard of not dividing communities of interest. Santa Barbara County would be split in half with 200,000 people in the south and 230,000 people in the north. The County's largest City with over 100,000 population would be in a separate district from the County seat Santa Barbara. Instead, it would be in a district with the San Luis Obispo County seat. This does not make sense and divides economic, political, and social communities of interest.

We propose an alternative that places all of Santa Barbara County and the southernmost portion of San Luis Obispo County (Nipomo-Oceano) in one State Assembly District. It is further proposed that the balance of San Luis Obispo County and the southernmost part of Monterey County be included in one State Assembly District.

a. Our proposed Santa Barbara County/Nipomo district is configured to comport with the Commission's 465,000 population target. Santa Barbara County has 432,981 people, Nipomo 16,714 people and the Oceano village and agricultural area 8,000 for a total of 457,695 which approaches the target.

The San Luis Obispo County/Southern/Central Monterey district would contain 246,000 people in San Luis Obispo County and 219,000 in Monterey County, primarily in the Salinas Valley to reach the Commission's 465,000 target.

- b. Both districts would comport with the Civil Rights Act.
- c. The districts' boundaries would be connected at all points.
- d. In our alternative San Luis Obispo County would be largely in one district except for the Nipomo portion. The San Luis Obispo County/Southern/Central Monterey district would sever the Nipomo area from San Luis Obispo County, its residents and farmers are heavily linked economically and functionally to Santa Maria in Santa Barbara County. The current proposal would divide this agricultural/ economic community of interest. Conversely agriculture in central and northern San Luis Obispo County is dominated by wine grapes (not strawberries and row crops) and cattle. These crops are linked to cities of Atascadero, Paso Robles, Templeton San Luis Obispo and the southern Salinas Valley in Monterey County. Both districts in our alternative proposal would be compact and without irregular boundaries.

2. State Senate District

The proposed State Senate CENTRAL COAST first draft version violates both the Commission's community of interest standard and its compactness standard. In fact, and as is obvious, it contains a long skinny gerrymander running up the coast which is exactly the structure which the Commission was created to avoid and eliminate. It includes a large wilderness area in the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, extends through the Monterey Peninsula and then all the way up into the San Jose metropolitan area to Morgan Hill. It is almost 300 miles long!! What do citizens in Santa Maria have in common with the commuter population in Morgan Hill? It is reminiscent of "the existing "ribbon of shame" 23rd Congressional District boundaries which the Commission has just recommended be reformed to meet its standards.

The proposed district inexplicably divides Santa Barbara County in half yet includes the southern San Jose metropolitan area.

As a better legal alternative ,which comports with the Commissions stated standards, we propose that all of Santa Barbara County, all of San Luis Obispo County, and southern and central Monterey County be in one State Senate district. By combining Santa Barbara County (432,981 population), San Luis Obispo County (271, 821 population and southern and central Monterey County (226,547 population out of a total of 433,887), the new Senate District would have the 931,349 target population. The 226,547 Monterey portion would be principally comprised of the incorporated Salinas Valley Cities (Salinas, 150,441; Gonzales, 8,187; Greenfield, 16,330; King City 12, 874; and Soledad, 25,738) these total 213,570. The balance of 12,977 in the would be in the surrounding unincorporated area. This district would comport with the Commission's criteria as follows:

- a. It would achieve the target Senate district population of 931,349.
- b. It would conform to the Voting Rights Act.
- c. The district would be contiguous and its boundaries would connect.

d. It would not divide any communities of interest except for the County of Monterey. This division would not be problematical as the line would separate the rural overwhelmingly agricultural part of the County from the urban and densely populated cities of the Monterey Peninsula. The northern part of the County functions as a major destination resort area and is financially , historically, and culturally tied to San Francisco as a second home weekend getaway and vacation retreat. It is also is an education center as it hosts two distinguished Federal military schools, the U. S. Army Defense Language Institute and the U. S. Navy Post Graduate School. It also hosts the Stanford University Marine Biology Station and the California State University at Monterey.

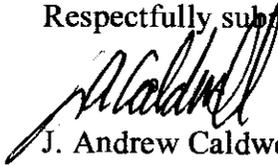
No cities would be divided. The predominantly agricultural region would be in the same Senate District with San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County where the main industry is agriculture. It would thus combine a community of interest. It would not divide any social or economic communities of interest. In fact, it would promote consolidation of the central coast's Hispanic voters into one Senate District. Monterey County has 53.9 % Hispanic population largely concentrated in the Salinas valley which would be in the district. San Luis Obispo County has 19.6 % Hispanic population and Santa Barbara County has 40.4% Hispanic population. All three County seats would be in the Senatorial district.

e. The district would be compact and follow natural boundaries of the Pacific Ocean on the west and the mountains which separate the 3 central coast counties from the San Joaquin Valley on the east. Its principle cities and most of its smaller cities are connected by US Highway 101 and the Union Pacific Rail Road.

f. Its boundaries would contain two whole Assembly districts and one half of a third.

Thank you for your service on the Commission and your consideration of this plan. Please to not hesitate to call our Director of Government Affairs Michael F. Brown; at 805 944 4274 or mike@colabslo.org should you need clarification or assistance.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Andrew Caldwell, Executive Director

cc: Michael F. Brown, Director of Government Affairs

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Santa Barbara, CA 93160-1510



Lompoc, CA 93436

Santa Maria, CA 93455

**JOSEPH E. HOLLAND
COUNTY CLERK, RECORDER AND ASSESSOR**

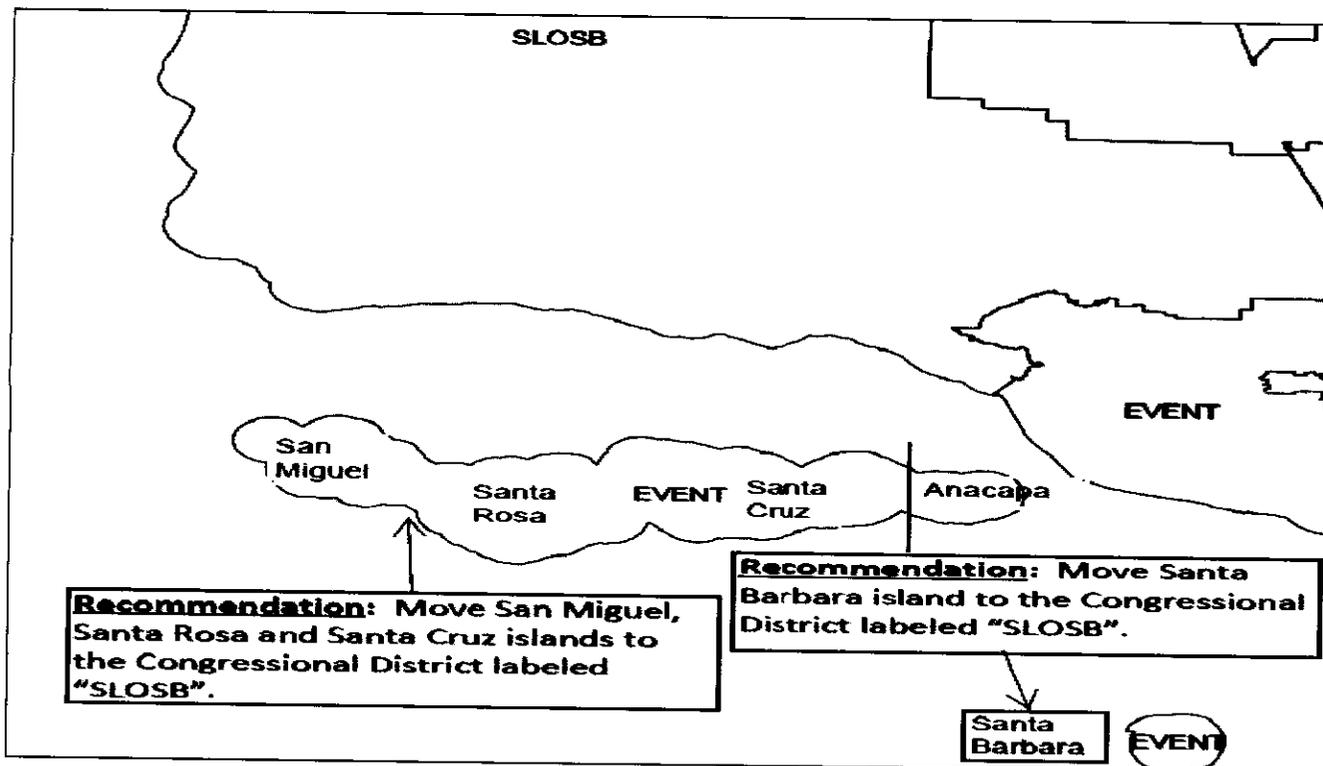
June 20, 2011

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

RE: PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES WITHIN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Santa Barbara County I am writing to express our concern regarding the proposed boundaries for the Congressional Districts in Santa Barbara County. The proposed Congressional District boundary labeled "SLOSB" encompasses all of Santa Barbara County with the exception of the Channel Islands. The islands of San Miguel, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa and Santa Barbara are all located within a different Congressional District labeled "EVENT" in which there are currently only seven registered voters (see image below). Two different Congressional Districts within the county create additional precincts and ballot groups. The end result is increased election costs related to proofing, printing, inventory, distribution and auditing of the additional ballot groups.

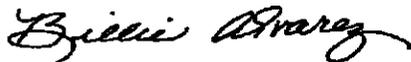


We ask that you give consideration to our concern regarding the Channel Islands outlined in this letter and include the islands of San Miguel, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa and Santa Barbara in the Congressional District labeled "SLOSB" as shown in the image above.

Additionally, in the commission's proposed boundaries seven of the eight cities in Santa Barbara County are nested within the same Senate and Assembly Districts. The eighth city, the City of Lompoc, is divided between two Senate and two Assembly Districts, which will result in an increase in election costs. Nesting the City of Lompoc within the same Senate and Assembly Districts would accomplish the redistricting criteria. This criteria states "district boundaries shall respect communities of interest, the district lines shall use, to the extent practicable, visible geographic features; city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts, similarities in social, cultural, ethnic, and economic interest, school districts, and other formal municipalities."

With the exception of our concerns detailed in this letter Santa Barbara County is pleased with and support the commission's proposed district boundaries for Congressional, State Assembly, State Senate and State Board of Equalization Districts within the County of Santa Barbara. Your commission has done an excellent job in nesting these districts which will save election costs and simplify the ballot grouping process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Billie Alvarez".

Billie Alvarez
Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters
Santa Barbara County