



CITY OF NEWMAN

June 27, 2011

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

RE: Proposed Merced/Monterey Senate Map

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for providing the City of Newman with an opportunity to review and comment on the Proposed Merced/Monterey Senate Map. As a municipality, we have seen many instances where local senate representation has been essential to cities and their various needs. That is why it is so important to have a senate district that appropriately represents a region and its specific needs; such as that of the agriculturally rich central valley.

Should the proposed Merced/Monterey district be established, central valley cities such as Newman would not receive the representation it deserves. How can a single senator effectively address the different issues from the very different regions of the bay area/central coast and the San Joaquin Valley? With many valley unemployment rates in the mid 20% range, over half of all residential properties up-side-down on their mortgages and over 22,000 foreclosures in Stanislaus County since 2006 - the Valley's economy continues to suffer and requires our representative's undivided attention.

Additionally, the proposed Merced/Monterey district does not have shared common social and economic interests (which are criterion for redistricting); it includes two very different regions. You can help our region by removing the bay area/central coast portions of the proposed senate district and follow the draft district that was featured on your web site approximately 3 weeks ago (enclosed) that included the agricultural parts of Madera and Fresno counties as well as the San Benito and Salinas areas, Merced County and western Stanislaus County. While including communities on the Highway 101 and 99 corridors isn't ideal, if you must include the Monterey and Merced Voting rights issues in one district, it is the far superior option. Returning to the previous district version would not require a major re-write – the work has already been done.

Please provide Newman and the central valley region with the opportunity to elect representatives who will make our home, the Central Valley, a priority. The City implores you to draw a Senate seat in and for the Central Valley. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] extension 17.

Sincerely,

STEPHANIE OCASIO
Assistant Planner

Enclosures

