



City of Patterson Office of the Mayor

[REDACTED]
Patterson, California 95363
[REDACTED]

June 23, 2011

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission,

Let me begin by Thanking You for your service on the Commission. This is a historic Commission, and you should be commended for the responsibility you have taken on to serve the people of California. I know first-hand what process you had to go through to be selected to this post. Congratulations!

As I look over the preliminary maps for redistricting, I am concerned that our Valley communities, our Latino communities, in Stanislaus County may not receive the representation they deserve, especially on the West Side, specifically the Cities of Patterson, Ceres, Newman, Gustine and communities of Crows Landing, Westley, and Grayson. As a local Latino elected official, the proposed district maps need to keep the Latino communities together. The communities mentioned above, especially the Latino communities the West Side of Stanislaus County, share a community of interest elements with its neighboring city, Modesto. These elements are, but not limited to, culture, news, social services, health resources and programs, sports leagues, agriculture work, churches, highways and shopping.

I would like to have a representative that will be closely located and accessible to me, our Patterson residents, the West Side, and our County. We need a district that will empower members of our community and not disenfranchise them. We need a district that fosters regional partnerships, and not one that pits "us" against "them."

I think it could potentially be a problem to have candidates that are unfamiliar with the needs of Patterson, the West Side of Stanislaus County. We need candidates who are culturally competent and aware of our needs, and have spent time in our community. If candidates are new to the area, they may not know our needs and how to bring solutions to us. I would like to see the district maps discussed to have very similar communities brought together as a region, with heavy consideration in population, transportation needs, workforce, economic development and geography, as much as possible.

This is a time for true demonstration in leadership and not business as usual. Consider the current and future challenges of our communities. As a public servant, I will serve my community at the pleasure of the residents/voters. It is important to listen to them, be available and accessible. It would be a great disappointment if we had a representative that was ineffective, not because they were not capable, but because of the vast amount of territory for which they are responsible. Please consider giving all the communities involved, a fair and equitable opportunity to not only elect their representative, but to also have an opportunity to development a relationship with them.

Respectfully,

Luis I. Molina
Mayor

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Stanislaus

From: Ryan Swehla [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 24 Jun 2011 22:29:42 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Ryan Swehla [REDACTED]

Subject: Valley Voice - Senate District 12

Message Body:

The change to the 12th senate district makes no sense whatsoever. That district was already one of the most disjointed and least aligned with communities of interest. The draft map makes that district worse, not better.

The Valley, like many other regions, has unique challenges with major issues such as water supply, air quality, and transportation. The Valley's challenges are completely different than the coastal region and the Bay Area. We already have a representative who has to balance his efforts between VERY different issues in Monterey County vs. Modesto. Now the representative would also have to somehow represent the completely different challenges & issues in teh Bay Area with the inclusion of San Jose.

This makes no sense. Rather, the 12th district should cover the parts of the Valley that are shown to be in the wierd leg of the "Foothills" district on the draft map. Then the unique issues in the valley will have a unified voice from their representative - as will the Monterey County area with a coastal representative, and the San Jose area with a Bay Area representative. Don't let District 12 be a worse bandaid than it already is. Instead, bond together communities of interest.

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