

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Stanislaus

From: Marian Martino [REDACTED]

Date: 6/28/2011 9:19 AM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Marian Martino <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Central Valley Redistricting

Message Body:

The California Constitution defines a community of interest as:

...a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples of such shared interests are those common to an urban area, a rural area, an industrial area, or an agricultural area, and those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process. Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates. ---Section 2(d)(4) of Article XXI of the California Constitution

As I understand it, this means that a community of interest is a group of people in the same area that share social and economic interests and who should be kept together in a district so they can get fair and effective representation.

Clearly, including the Valley and coastal areas (especially parts of San Jose) into one district does not meet the definition of a Community of Interest in California's Constitution.

The numbers don't lie. By any measure – economics, agriculture, diversity, health, air quality, educational opportunity and environment – Merced and Stanislaus counties should be in San Joaquin Valley districts. Santa Clara, Monterey and San Benito counties are not part of the San Joaquin Valley.

Merced and Stanislaus counties have more in common with Sacramento and Riverside counties than with Santa Clara and Monterey counties.

The agricultural industry is different between the valley and the coast. Air quality issues are different; transportation issues are different; produce moves to market on entirely different routes. The interests of one side will often be in conflict with those of the other.

The valley needs elected officials who represent us and can stand up for us.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Redistricting: Proposed state Senate districts

From: "John and Priscilla" <[REDACTED]>

Date: 6/28/2011 1:01 PM

To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Redistricting Committee Members:

Thank you for your willingness to serve in this important role. While I can appreciate that you face many challenges in addressing your task, I am disappointed by the proposed state senate district map in terms of its treatment of Stanislaus and Merced Counties. The Central Valley is different from the Central Coast/coastal communities and counties of California—very different. I spent the first 21 years of my life in Santa Clara County and still have family ties to the area, so I think this gives me more than a superficial understanding of the similarities and differences. I have lived in Stanislaus County for the past 40 years: our commonality of interest and the issues that concern us are predominantly those of other San Joaquin Valley counties, not those of coastal areas such as San Benito and Monterey counties that the proposed Senate district includes.

Too often the Central Valley seems to get what feels like the leftovers. That's what this proposal feels like to me. I hope that you can find a way to keep Central Valley counties together rather than joining them with areas of California that have very different concerns and interests.

Sincerely,
Priscilla S. Peters
Turlock, California