

Region 7 - Santa Cruz
June 26

----- Original Message -----

Subject: State Commission Written Testimony
Date: Sun, 26 Jun 2011 20:21:41 -0400 (EDT)
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Dear State Commissioners:

Attached you will find the Tri- County Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials written testimony.

Take care and keep the great work for State of California..

Antonio Rivas, TCLEO Member
Former Mayor, City of Watsonville



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TCALEO

TRI-COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS
MONTEREY - SANTA CRUZ - SAN BENITO

June 25, 2011

The Tri-County Association of Latino Elected Officials (TCALEO) is an association made up of elected officials from Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito County. TCALEO is dedicated to developing a structure of collaborative, effective leadership to unify Latino elected governmental officials to recommend policies to improve the quality of life of Central Cost Latinos in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. In order to fulfill our mission as stated TCALEO takes opportunities like those being presented by the Congressional and Senate Redistricting to voice our comments.

The Commission map of Senate District 15 is a strong improvement and reflects oral testimony and written comment you have received. TCALEO strongly supports keeping Hollister and the Salinas Valley in the same Senate District as the City of Watsonville.

These areas have community of interests namely agriculture. The majority of residents are farm workers, who speak Spanish and are low-income. Additionally, as in the past we will continue to legislatively address issues of farm, labor, education, and health care.

Additionally, all three entities have representatives that serve on the Association of Monterey Bay Area Government (AMBAG) as well as on the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District Board.

Currently, Scotts Valley and Davenport are in the 14th Congressional District. We suggest that they be moved to the California 17th Congressional District, whereby becoming part of the 27th and/or 28th Assembly.

As improvement continues and this process moves forward, TCALEO wishes to remind the Commission that they have a legal obligation to ensure that the Voting Rights Act which requires that district maps provide Latino voters and other underrepresented communities with a fair opportunity to elect the candidates of their choice is strictly adhered to. Additionally, the Voting Rights Act protections include the creation of districts where Latinos are the majority of the population in certain circumstances, and where Latino communities and neighborhoods are kept together to provide Latinos with fair electoral opportunities. You must ensure that the lines drawn do not dilute minority-voting strength.

TCALEO thanks you for your time and consideration.

Phillip Tabera
President TCALEO

Rebecca Garcia
Member TCALEO

Carmelita Garcia
Secretary TCALEO

President

PHILLIP TABERA

Trustee

Salinas Union
High School District

1st Vice-President

TONY MADRIGAL

Councilmember

City of Santa Cruz

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www.tcaleo.org