

**Subject:** Sun\_City\_Shadow\_Hills\_Redistricting\_ltr

**From:** "Mike" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 7/25/2011 4:12 AM

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

— Attachments: —

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Sun\_City\_Shadow\_Hills\_Redistricting\_ltr.doc

28.5 KB

July 24, 2011

To: The Hon. Commissioners of the  
California Redistricting Committee

Dear Commissioners:

The undersigned is a resident of the community of Sun City Shadow Hills in the City of Indio in eastern Riverside County. Residents in our large master-planned development are very involved in local and State politics and have been monitoring the work of the Commission very carefully. During the past several weeks we have become very concerned about the Commission's actions in attempting to split the cities of the Coachella Valley into two districts. The initial Assembly map produced by the Commission was correct in drawing all cities in the greater Coachella Valley in one district.

We are very concerned that the recent work of the Commission in which the cities of Indio, parts of Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs and Coachella would be drawn with Imperial County. We respectfully submit that residents of the City of Indio, and specifically Sun City Shadow Hills, have nothing in common with the communities of Imperial County. Further, the characterization of the City of Indio as an agriculture town is completely inaccurate. Residents in our community chose to move to Sun City Shadow Hills to purchase upscale homes surrounded by golf courses and numerous other amenities. Indio is the largest city in the Coachella Valley and as such is a vibrant and growing community. Our city needs to be drawn in one district with our neighboring cities with which we already partner on transportation projects and numerous economic development issues.

We are further alarmed by recent news of the past week that one of your members appears to have a political conflict of interest, and that this Commissioner has been pushing the division of the Coachella Valley's Assembly map during the past several weeks behind the scenes. The work of the Commission is to be non-partisan and not drawn under political lines. It appears the latest generation of the Assembly map is drawn completely by political lines due to the undue influence of this one Commissioner who has been asked to step-down from his position.

As a resident of the City of Indio, we respectfully ask that the Commission return to its initial map for the Coachella Valley's Assembly district which incorporated all cities in the Coachella Valley into one district. This is the proper non-partisan decision to make.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the comments set forth in this letter and your service to the citizens of the State of California.

Sincerely,

Michael A Cohen

[REDACTED]

Indio California, 92203

**Subject:** || Dennis Stratton Palm Springs ||

**From:** <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 7/25/2011 2:16 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

See attached Letter

— Attachments: —

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2011 JULY Letter for Redistricting Commission DMS.doc

21.5 KB

July 25, 2011

To: The Hon. Commissioners of the  
California Redistricting Committee

Dear Commissioners:

The undersigned is a resident of the Coachella Valley in eastern Riverside County. Residents in our community are very involved in local and State politics and have been monitoring the work of the Commission very carefully. During the past several weeks we have become very concerned about the Commission's actions in attempting to split the cities of the Coachella Valley into two districts. The initial Assembly map produced by the Commission was correct in drawing all cities in the greater Coachella Valley in one district.

We are further alarmed by recent news of the past week that one of your members appears to have a political **conflict of interest**, and that this Commissioner has been pushing the division of the Coachella Valley's Assembly map during the past several weeks behind the scenes. The work of the Commission is to be non-partisan and not drawn under political lines. It appears the latest generation of the Assembly map is drawn completely by political lines due to the undue influence of this one Commissioner who has been asked to step-down from his position.

As a resident of the Coachella Valley, we respectfully ask that the Commission return to its initial map for the Coachella Valley's Assembly district which incorporated all cities in the Coachella Valley into one district. This is the proper non-partisan decision to make.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the comments set forth in this letter and your service to the citizens of the State of California.

Sincerely,

Dennis Mark Stratton, Retired Military

  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

**Subject:** Dennis Lopez Testimony for the California Citizens' Redistricting Commission

**From:** Dennis Lopez <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 7/25/2011 9:02 AM

**To:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Honorable Members of the California Citizens' Redistricting Commission,  
Attached is my testimony for your consideration in the final drafting of the 2011 Redistricting Plan. I have reviewed your website and did not see a specific deadline date for this testimony. I was advised by an outside source that your deadline was Saturday, July 23rd. However, not seeing that deadline clearly stated on your official website, I am sending this testimony for your consideration.

I wish you the best in your completion of this critically important task.

Dennis Lopez  
Riverside, CA

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7-25-11 testimony of Dennis Lopez testimony to the California Redistricting Committee.docx	25.6 KB
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## **July 25, 2011 Testimony of Dennis Lopez the California Citizens Redistricting Commission**

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Honorable members of the California Redistricting Committee, I submit this testimony as an Inland Empire resident from 1982 through 1984, and again from 2000 to today. I live in Riverside County and work in San Bernardino County and I am involved in civic activities in both counties. These two counties comprise the region commonly referred to as the Inland Empire. My wife and I are educators who maintain close professional contacts among Riverside and San Bernardino students, educators, administrators, and parents. Over the past 11 years I have attended immigrant rights advocacy events, and been involved in activities that advocate for educational opportunity for low-income Chicano/Latino students, Latino immigrant communities, and Spanish-speaking English learners in both San Bernardino and Riverside counties. During this time I have witnessed repeated instances of elected Inland Empire members of the State Assembly, State Senate and Congress failure to address the needs of the Chicano/Latino communities of interest. That failure was facilitated by the gerrymandering of the 2001 California Redistricting Plan which diluted the voting strength of Chicano/Latino communities of interest.

The 2011 redistricting process creates the potential to provide adequate representation for the growing Inland Empire Chicano/Latino population. According to 2010 Census data the Chicano/Latino population comprised 45.5% of the total Riverside County population and the Chicano/Latino population comprised 49.2% of San Bernardino County population. In comparison 10 years ago, the 2000 Census reported that Chicanos and Latinos were 36.2% of the Riverside County population and 39.2% of the San Bernardino population. In 2008, the Public Policy Institute of California projected that by 2015, the Chicano/Latino population will be 51% of the entire Inland Empire population (PPIC, 2008).

I look to the California Citizen's Redistricting Commission to draw Inland Empire State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional districts with strict adherence to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act so Chicano/Latino voters can elect representatives of our choice. Specifically, I look to the Commission to construct Inland Empire State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional districts with a 50% or more Chicano/Latino Citizens Voting Age Population (CVAP).

### Inland Empire Chicano/Latino Communities of Interest and the Crisis in Education

After residing in the Inland Empire from 2000 to 2006, I was made aware of the expanding educational inequities suffered by Chicano/Latino students throughout the region. In 2007, I helped to found the Chicano/Latino Coalition for Educational Equity and English Learners of the Inland Empire. As a member of this organization I have given public testimony at meetings of the San Bernardino County Board of Education, San Bernardino Unified School District Board of Education, a UC Riverside Educational Forum of the California State Legislature's Chicano/Latino Legislative Caucus, and at a UC Riverside meeting of the University of California Regents. In addition, I have participated in peaceful demonstrations to protect immigrant rights in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The Inland Empire educational crisis is important to



## **July 25, 2011 Testimony of Dennis Lopez the California Citizens Redistricting Commission**

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Chicano/Latino communities because Chicano/Latino students currently comprise more than 60% of all students enrolled in San Bernardino and Riverside county public schools.

**This on-going educational crisis in the Inland Empire is evidenced by: (A) 40 consecutive years of low UC and CSU freshmen admissions eligibility compared to other counties in California, particularly for under-represented ethnic minorities; (B) the Inland Empire public schools achievement gap between affluent White students and low-income, under-represented ethnic minority students, including Chicano/Latino students, Spanish-speaking English learner students, lawful permanent resident immigrant students, and undocumented immigrant students; and (C) the increasing inequality of educational opportunities in Inland Empire public schools as evidenced by the number of schools designated in need of School Improvement.**

### Multiple dimensions Inland Empire Chicano/Latino Communities of Interest:

The common interests that bind the Inland Empire Chicano/Latino population of the communities in Voting Rights Act compliant districts include:

- the need for improvement in low performing Inland Empire public schools;
- the need for Spanish/English bilingual education programs and other Spanish/English governmental services;
- the need for more programs which prepare these communities for higher education and which provide job training;
- the need for greater protection of ethnic minority groups civil rights-including immigrant rights;
- the need to address the lack of adequate health care services and facilities;
- the need to address the lack of Spanish-speaking health care professionals;
- the need for job creation;
- the need for more affordable housing and improvement in existing housing stock; and
- the need for more effective leadership of elected officials to address the issues listed above.

Census data from 2010 provide ample evidence supporting the list above.

- lower - median family income,
- higher levels of poverty,
- higher than average numbers of residents who speak English “not at all” and who speak English “less well”,
- low levels of adult educational attainment,
- higher unemployment rates,
- higher rates of high school drop-out,



## July 25, 2011 Testimony of Dennis Lopez the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

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- lower median age of residents,
- concentrated poverty, and
- majority-ethnic minority populations.

**The Commission's strict adherence to Section 2 standards of the Voting Rights Act will ensure that the Inland Empire not become the site of a violation of Chicano/Latino voting rights.**

### Statewide Adherence to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act

I am a native Californian who has been a registered California voter all my adult life, even for the 6 years when I spent the academic year on the east coast. As a 53 year old I have been a California voter for 35 years. While I have lived in the Inland Empire for the past 11 years, over my lifetime I have also lived in San Diego County, Orange County, Los Angeles County, Santa Clara County, Alameda County, and Sacramento County. The adherence to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act is important to the Chicano/Latino population because of the history of voting rights violations in our state.

I urge the California Citizen's Redistricting Commission to construct your statewide plan for State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional districts that: (a) are contiguous; (b) are of equal population; (c) comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act by drawing districts with 50% or more Chicano/Latino - Citizen Age Voting Population (CVAP); and (d) contain communities of interests with similar needs including improvement of educational opportunities, improvement in health care access, and increased availability of low-cost housing. Likewise these communities of interest have similar characteristics including the prevalence of Spanish-speaking residents ranging from those who are totally bilingual in English to those who speak English less than well or not at all, low-income families, and under-employed or unemployed adults.

Best wishes for the successful completion of this critically important task.



**Subject:** Letter re: Coachella Valley

**From:** Jim Stuart <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 7/25/2011 2:51 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

California Redistricting Commission,

Please distribute this letter attached to all Commission Members.

Thank you,

James Stuart

[REDACTED] cell

— Attachments: —

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Redistricting.doc

28.5 KB

July 24, 2011

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

Dear Commissioners;

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen of Riverside County and the owner of one of the largest commercial, industrial real estate companies in the Coachella Valley and Pass Area. We have been in business here for 35 years with offices in Palm Springs, Indio, and Beaumont. We currently have 81 parcels for sale and nine parcels for lease.

My concern is that the Coachella Valley representation at the State level, both Senate and Assembly, was splintered by the last redistricting 10 years ago. I believe that the commission was created to prevent the division of like communities or those that share common links.

The communities of the Coachella Valley along the Interstate 10 Corridor have many links with each other. The valley itself is an inclusive market area. with an international airport. We have a strong daily newspaper that reaches throughout the valley, as well as over a dozen local radio stations, five local network TV affiliates with 4 daily local TV news shows serving the area. There are three major auto plazas sprinkled between Indio and Palm Springs offering over 25 different brands of autos and trucks. We have three medical campuses that service the valley. Our one community college district services the entire valley with a campus in Palm Desert, a satellite in Indio and two campuses in the planning stages for Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs.

Tourism is our biggest pull and link throughout the valley. The Greater Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority services and showcases all the communities in the Coachella Valley. We have conventions meeting all over the valley, annual festivals from Indio to Palm Springs, casinos, a National Monument, museums, Indian Canyons and other tourist attractions. Our hotels range from the Hot Water Spas in Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs to the Golf & Tennis resorts in Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Bermuda Dunes, Palm Desert, La Quinta and Indio. Our visitors from all over the world populate every community from Desert Hot Springs, through Palm Springs to Indio.

Our working population throughout the Coachella Valley work either directly or indirectly as a result of the tourism industry. The growth of retail has been a result of the increased population whether they are working, retired, or visitor.

The area is served by two economic development agencies. Coachella Valley Association of Government ( CVAG) and Coachella Economic Partnership ( CVEP). These two

entities are made up of representatives of all 9 local cities and the county areas. We have one bus line servicing the entire Coachella Valley “Sun Line”, which is overseen by CVAG.

Two local school districts encompass several communities in the Coachella Valley. Palm Springs Unified covers Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, and Thousand Palms. Desert Sands Unified covers Bermuda Dunes, Indio, La Quinta, and Palm Desert.

As a realtor, I am very familiar with the various types of commercial property throughout the Coachella Valley and how they all play a part in the success of this valley. I can assure you that there are no major or minor agriculture properties in Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, Thousand Palms, Bermuda Dunes, La Quinta or Indio. The only “farming” considered in these areas is related to solar and wind.

The only areas of the Coachella Valley that feature agriculture are Coachella, Mecca and Thermal. These areas are not part of the Interstate 10 Corridor but are serviced by Hwy 86 through Imperial County. They are also served by a separate school district, Coachella Unified.

It is my hope that you will consider redistricting the Coachella Valley so that it is represented in whole by one state senate seat and one assembly seat. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Stuart

  
Palm Springs, CA 92262