

REGION 2: RIVERSIDE

[REDACTED]
Rancho Mirage, Ca. 92270
July 19, 2011

EMERGENCY APPEAL REGARDING
COACHELLA VALLEY/IMPERIAL COUNTY
VISUALIZATION MAP

RE: Visualization Map – Congress / Coachella Valley

Commission on Redistricting
Sacramento, California

Dear Commissioners:

I am disappointed and in utter dismay that the visualization map you have provided for the Coachella Valley (current 45th) congressional district apparently does not include Imperial County combined with the cities in Coachella Valley. I have written to this commission on two occasions, and I understand from an article in the Press-Enterprise newspaper that my testimony became public record.

As a former farm worker and Spanish speaking citizen of Coachella Valley, I feel it is imperative that Imperial and Coachella Valley be combined into ONE congressional district. I think I have provided – along with testimony from others -- superb reasons and justification why Coachella and Imperial should be combined into ONE congressional district. I do NOT understand that you have a visualization map almost identical to your first draft map that prompted so many negative responses from people like me who testified to you that Hemet and San Jacinto and cities like Calimesa HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON with cities in Coachella Valley and Imperial. The Salton Sea environment, solar and wind energy development and POTENTIAL jobs connected with them, the agricultural and language barrier concerns, the transportation and rights of ways and on and on dictate that Coachella and Imperial have much more in common when assessing communities of interest than do Coachella Valley cities and Hemet and San Jacinto.

Please, I am urging you to re-consider your visualization decisions and combine Coachella Valley and Imperial. From what I understand, many folks who testified to you agree with me that Coachella Valley and Imperial belong together in this ONE distinct congressional district. Many have testified to you that San Diego County does not want Imperial in its district.

Is politics involved by some of you on the commission when politics should have NO bearing WHATSOEVER on this re-districting mission? Coachella Valley and Imperial County cities naturally belong together as communities of interest, and the reasons are very, very apparent! YOU HAVE A CHANCE HERE TO FINALLY MAKE CORRECT A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT THAT ADEQUATELY AND RIGHTLY DEFINES COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND ALLOWS THE VOTERS RIGHTS ACT TO PREVAIL!

Again, please refer to my previous two letters to the commission about my reasons for combining the Coachella Valley and Imperial communities into ONE congressional district. And, again, I am begging you to re-consider and make what I feel are appropriate changes to reflect my concerns and concerns of many people who have testified to you about this matter.

YOU CAN DO THE RIGHT THING BY ELIMINATING HEMET AND SAN JACINTO FROM THIS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT PROPOSAL AND BY COMBINING COACHELLA VALLEY AND IMPERIAL COUNTY CITIES INTO ONE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT!

Sincerely,


George Garcia

Very concerned citizen of Coachella Valley