Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Fresno
From: craig Gonda
Date: Sat, 23 Jul 2011 00:07:17 +0000

To: [redacted]

From: craig Gonda
Subject: submit

Message Body:

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

7/23/2011 10:40 AM
Ladies & Gentlemen of the Redistricting Commission:

I ask that you support MALDEF's "unity proposal" for the San Joaquin Valley. Currently, the map divides Latinos and continues to denies them a fair representation in Central California. The major growth in our valley was due to children of Mexican and Central American ancestry. California could have lost a congressional seat had it not been for the growth it had in the last 10 years. Yet according to the currents maps available there are no ADDITIONAL districts created that gave effective representation to Latinos who were the 90% of the growth and who saved CA from losing a congressional seat?

Despite that growth of people the valley is know as one of the poorest places in the United States. We have suffered from lower educational, employment, health care and other standards that define a society. People of other races and cultures are also become deprived due to the economic meltdown that we have been feeling as part of our Central Valley for many years.

Our northern political borders have people who are very well-off and continue to recieve the bounty of benefits that our duly elected representatives acquire for their constituants. They do not respond well to those of lesser means in the districts they represent and maintain the unequal and dysfunctional imbalance that is Fresno. We ask for a chance to allowing us to remain as a majority within the boundaries defined in the districts so that our needs can be heard and addressed. Keep the southern half of the city of Fresno in the district with towns like Sanger, Parlier, Del Rey, Kerman, Mendota, Biola, etc who also have these same Latinos and minorities that share the same characteristics.

We understand the responsibility and difficulty that this commission has undertaken but we must be heard. The difficulties of our times demand it even more so that our rights to be counted and represented well. Fortunatley your not alone. Many fine people who have been working on civil rights and justice for Latino people and others like MALDEF have a plan that is worth your while and time. Please take some time to look their Unity Proposal over and I hope it gives you some help and hope that we all can make a difference.

Thank you,
Richard Gomez
Fresno, CA
Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

For ease of reference, please kindly refer to the shape files that we submitted on July 15.

We note that the Hmong/Southeast Asian refugee neighborhood in Fresno is divided at every level of government except for the Board of Equalization. CAPAFR understands that uniting this neighborhood may be difficult at the Senate and Congressional levels due to Section 5 constraints.

Because the Commission does not have similar constraints at the Assembly level, we ask that minor changes be made in FSEC2 to bring more of the Hmong refugee neighborhood together. Please consider the Assembly mapping changes that we sent to the Commission on July 15 on behalf of CAPAFR.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Eugene Lee

Eugene Lee
Voting Rights Project Director

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER
Member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Los Angeles, CA 90017
Dear Commission,

My name is Cindy Quiralte and I am a resident of Fresno County. I understand the significance of these lines that you have the task of drawing. Please, take my advice as a community member of the Central Valley.

I would like to advise you to continue to use the 99 Freeway as a dividing line for Bakersfield. East of 99 is a strong Latino community that should be located in a Latino effective district, which can be accomplished by strengthening the Latino CVAP of the Kings district.

There is a natural divide between rural and urban Fresno, with a loose boundary that occurs along the Santa Fe railroad lines. The urban areas of Fresno should be maintained in the current Latino effective district, FSEC2.

The Commission should add the heavily Latino neighborhoods of Tulare and Visalia to the KINGS district. These communities share social and economic characteristics with the Latino communities of interest in Kings.

Thank you for allowing me to contribute my input in the redistricting process that will affect the next ten years of California.

-Cindy Quiralte