Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I am addressing the Commission because I do NOT want to be in a Congressional District that goes all the way to Merced or Fresno counties. Residents of San Joaquin County of whatever nationality or culture should be in a district with other members of San Joaquin County. It is more important to me to be in a district with my neighbors here in San Joaquin County, than to be grouped with citizens two counties away.

It is natural that people in a district should be included with other people of similar interests and concerns, and that city and county boundaries should be used as much as possible when establishing those districts. It also seems natural that San Joaquin County should be a Congressional District on its own. The county should have a state Senate District and an entire state Assembly District, but not more than two such districts within the county.

Re: San Joaquin County's State Senate, Assembly and Congressional Districts
In 2001 San Joaquin County was irrationally divided between two Congressional Districts, with a “finger” that tears the county and the City of Stockton apart. Right now, San Joaquin County residents are either in a district with people from Merced and Fresno counties, or in a district with people in the Bay Area. That has been terrible and as a result I do not have any effective representation in Congress. Don’t do that to us again!

Keeping San Joaquin County as a Congressional District on its own would preserve the city and county boundaries and give our residents an effective political voice.

So, I think it is only natural that San Joaquin County be made a Congressional District on its own; that we have one state Senate District; and that we have an entire Assembly District, but not more than two Assembly Districts in the county. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Donna DeMartino

Lodi, CA