To: 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
From: Margaret Reed  
Re: Three Rivers-Visalia Community of Interest  
Submission ID number 06112021781  

July 30, 2021

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing in support of The Three Rivers-Visalia Community of Interest.

I am a resident of the little Sierra Nevada foothill community of Three Rivers, and I am a property tax payer in the County of Tulare. My home is near Highway 198 which is the transportation artery flowing from Sequoia National Park through Three Rivers and down the hill connecting to local communities (Lemoncove, Woodlake, Exeter, Farmersville, Ivanhoe) and the metropolitan city of Visalia. Members of the Three Rivers community travel to Visalia for many basic needs, business and cultural entertainment. Valley residents reciprocate by traveling to Three Rivers and Sequoia National Park for recreation, dining, the arts and vacations. For example, I go to Visalia for grocery shopping, physical therapy, gym workouts, fine dining, to hear the Sequoia Symphony, visit movie theaters, conduct business at Tulare County offices or keep appointments with the Ophthalmologist, family doctor and the DMV. On the flip side, valley residents frequent Three Rivers to dine, celebrate local artists, search for wedding venues, as well as fishing, boating, skiing and camping at Lake Kaweah, and taking vacations and hiking the trails of Sequoia National Park. We are all connected by the abundant natural resources of this corridor of communities. I should add that I shop in Farmersville for nursery plants, in Woodlake for Fruit Growers Supplies and in Exeter to meet friends for coffee and chats.

Three Rivers is currently located within the remote Congressional District 23. Bakersfield is 90 miles away from Three Rivers which is a 1 hour and 45 minute drive if you have a car. There is no public transportation to Bakersfield which means there is no easy access to the staff/office of our Congressman, and this situation is particularly tough for the senior community. I don’t venture south to Bakersfield for anything!
Inconvenience, difficult accessibility and logistical problems are reasons to be removed from Congressional District 23.

Three Rivers is positioned 30 minutes and 29 miles from Visalia. Public transportation is available!!! As Three Rivers is located within Tulare County all our relevant county business is situated in Visalia. Convenience, easy accessibility and peace of mind are reasons to be included in the Three Rivers-Visalia Community of Interest.

Both Visalia and Three Rivers proclaim that they are the “Gateway to Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks.” Three Rivers-Visalia is definitely a Community of Interest with a shared bond of unique life sustaining water issues, conservation concerns of shared resources, the quality of shared air and the eruption of frequent environmental fires. Last year during the fire evacuation, the residents of Three Rivers scrambled to Visalia for safety. My roots are here in Three Rivers as my husband and I bought our property and we have “happily” paid Tulare County taxes for 36 years. We built our retirement home here in Three Rivers and feel we live in a vast and flourishing Community of Interest: Three Rivers-Visalia.

Kindly consider this request for combining Three Rivers with Visalia as a Community Of Interest.

Most Sincerely,

[Margar Reed]

Margaret Reed
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Three Rivers-Visalia COI

~ You can mail a hardcopy of your map with attached statements (see questions asked in Draw My CA Community) to: California Citizens Redistricting Commission, C/O Public Comment, 721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260 Sacramento, CA 95814
~ Or email to votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov. In your email note that your information pertains to Redistricting Public Input.
~ You can also complete your map and statements online with the Draw My CA Community tool at https://www.drawmycacommunity.org/.