August 4, 2021

CA Citizen’s Redistricting Commission  
c/o Public Opinion  
721 Capitol Mall #260  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners,

I have lived in Fresno, California for 40 years. I reside in State Senate District 8, and in State Assembly District 23.

I am writing to request that the whole of Fresno County be assigned to one State Senate District. For the past decade we have had little voice in the state Senate since our senators have attempted to represent Fresno County along with all or portions of 14 neighboring counties. The demands of each senator’s district have taken energy away from the growing demands of Fresno County.

We are large enough and complex enough to require steady, knowledgeable and local representation. Our needs are like those of other large California urban centers plus we have the attendant issues of an agricultural economy. Abject poverty, lack of educational attainment, uncertain water supply, and lack of housing, and numerous other issues define our County. Yes, we have similarities with neighboring counties but most importantly, our population is concentrated in the City and County of Fresno. Our County government needs the support of state representatives who are focused on our specific needs.

Additionally, I suggest that two assembly districts nested within the newly defined State senate district, much the way Assembly Districts 23 and 31 currently represent the whole population of Fresno County, would add to the voice of Fresno County residents in the state legislature.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kast