Dear CA Redistricting Committee,

I am a resident of the Kern River Valley. The following is my input contribution on the needs of my community. I have used the question format suggested by your website.

1. Our Community is:

Kern River Valley and surrounding rural areas.

2. Mention the street names and significant locations in your neighborhood to help us identify the parameters of your community.

   All communities within the Kern River Valley and surrounding rural areas. Lake Isabella, Wofford Heights, Kernville, Weldon, Kelso Valley, Onyx, Canebrake, South Lake, Squirrel Valley, River Kern, Havahla, Walker Basin, Greenhorn.

3. What are your shared interests?

   We are an unincorporated broad rural area. By the very nature of our ruralness, and isolation from easy access to a variety of goods and services we are more self-reliant and dependent on each others ability to help each other in emergencies as well as in daily life stressors.

   We have Infrastructure commonality problems, flakey internet access, cost reasonable water access, public transportation needs, elderly service needs, extractive water infrastructure developmental proposals (Ex. Pumped storage proposal, Dam improvement influence on community, South Fork of the Kern water exploited for the Rio Bravo water district), outside visitation for recreation purposes influencing community needs.(road wear, trash illegally dumped, need for properly managed recreation facilities, sanitation needs due to tourist influx, dirt bike motor cross destruction of hillsides and disturbance of neighborhoods), keeping intact our private property rights from recreation intrusion and keeping the surrounding natural beauty of our area from degradation due to visitor and residential use of natural areas.

4. What brings you together?
Ruralness, outside recreational use of our area, distance in travel to goods and services, high fire danger to local neighborhood communities, exploitive water development issues, remote road connectivity, 178 canyon and Walker Pass road safety and access for travel to work, and for goods and services beyond what the local community provides.

5. What is important to your community?
Support for an aging population, support structure for drug addiction, youth programs, more funding for individual and neighborhood fire safety preparedness, addressing homelessness issues, affordable water, community control of our natural water table and creeks, specific representation of our communities needs in our government officials, support of farmers markets, internet and phone service infrastructure upgrade. Maintaining schools and hospital infrastructure.

6. Are there nearby areas you want to be in a district with?
All the areas mentioned in #2. All communities within the Kern River Valley and surrounding rural areas. Lake Isabella, Wofford Heights, Kernville, Weldon, Kelso Valley, Onyx, Canebrake, South Lake, Squirrel Valley, River Kern, Havahla, Walker Basin, Greenhorn.

7. Nearby areas you don't want to be in a district with? Why or why not?
Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, these areas do not have specific rural needs that are bound by isolated road topography problems, and can access goods and services more readily. They have city counsels and better representation to government budgets. Our communities resources are exploited by greater cities like Bakersfield and the towns and cities South such as the LA basin. And yet we lack funding to keep our communities thriving.

8. Has your community come together to advocate for important services, better schools, roads, or health centers in your neighborhood?
In certain areas yes but we encompass such a large terrain that is topography challenged in being connected and able to voice our needs as one community.

Thank you for your commitment to hearing our voice on redistricting.

Sincerely,
Ellen Schafhauser