August 18, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Ste 260
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 323-0323
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

RE: San Joaquin County’s Congressional, State Senate, Assembly Districts

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

It is very important in our representative government that there be fairness and proportional balance of power, and we appreciate your time to ensure our community has equal representation at both the State and Federal level.

We want to thank the last Redistricting Commission for their attention to this matter and appreciate the opportunity to work with this year’s commission. We are looking forward to a robust discussion, once again.

San Joaquin County is self-contained, with natural physical barriers. These include the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and the Altamont to the west, open agricultural lands to the north, the foothills to the east, and the Stanislaus River, and open agricultural land to the south.

Our uniformed geography and common land-use issues lend it to a single representative unit. And because population centers outside the county are somewhat distant and accessible only by congested highways, county residents tend to look within San Joaquin County’s borders for jobs, transportation, services, entertainment, and culture.
San Joaquin County has numerous unique characteristics that unify us. The Agricultural industry provides $5.732 billion in total economic contribution to the County and directly supports approximately one out of every 11 jobs. Transportation, logistics, and warehousing industries are the bulk of the County’s employment growth due to our strategic location and multi-modal transportation network. This network includes the Port of Stockton, Stockton Terminal Railroad connecting to the BNSF and Union Pacific Railroad, Stockton Metropolitan Airport, I-5, I-205, I-580, and State Route 99. In addition, we have unique challenges with health equity, education, air pollution, and workforce development.

It is essential to continue with the production of Agriculture and work toward jobs that will provide a sustainable income for families now and in the future. We are at ground zero for many of California’s most challenging water threats, which also threaten other regions. Therefore, the importance of representation at the State and Federal level are vital to the future of our communities and job creation.

Our County socio-economic issues are different from other Counties, with data showing almost 41% of our citizens speak another language than English at home making San Joaquin County one of the most diverse places in the world. We have learned to work together to build a better future for all residents while understanding the needs of our diverse population.

Our primary request is to maintain our communities of interest, ensuring cohesive representation at all levels of government. Preliminary population data supports one Congressional District, one Senate District, and two State Assembly Districts nested within the State Senate District.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you to ensure San Joaquin County residents get the best quality representation for the decade to come.

Sincerely,

Moses Zapien | CEO/President
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