August 15, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of more than 1,500 members of East Valley Republican Women Federated (EVRWF) to share our Community of Interest comments regarding the greater Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valley (Blythe) portions of Riverside County. The most important element of our position is to keep our community in one Assembly District. Our community is currently gerrymandered, which the law states is illegal. We want to be one unified community for the following reasons:

- We support having one contiguous Assembly district including all Coachella Valley cities: Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Thousand Palms, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Indio, Coachella, Mecca and Thermal. The district could include Palo Verde Valley (25,000 people/2019) and end at the Arizona border.

- There are currently 212,787 registered Democrats, 152,317 registered Republicans, and 107,564 registered No Party Preference voters in our community. These numbers demonstrate a balanced registration. The current 42\textsuperscript{nd} Assembly District has relatively even registration numbers, but the 56\textsuperscript{th} district has twice as many Democrats as any other registration preference. We do not support a district being both geographically and politically gerrymandered.

- Our community should not be segregated by ethnic or socio-economic groups. We are one community, and we need to work together to achieve goals and solve problems.

- All Coachella Valley cities and the local tribes work together through the Coachella Valley Association of Governments where they jointly address public safety, infrastructure, homelessness, conservation/environmental issues, energy needs, etc.... When the cities are divided into separate legislative districts it makes it difficult for them to get fair representation in the state legislature.

- The 2019 population of Coachella Valley was approximately 388,000 full-time residents. The population increases in the winter months when over 100,000 "snowbirds" arrive. We are large enough to have one Assembly district. Although these visitors are NOT residents of California, they do increase the size of our community and should be considered when drawing the lines.

Continued.
Community of Interest Comment Letter
Eastern Riverside County/Coachella Valley, Zone I
East Valley Republican Women Federated

- Tourism and agriculture are the major economic sectors in Coachella Valley. Together with Palo Verde Valley we have shared agricultural interests which would be better represented if they were in one district.

- The Coachella Valley is a unique geographical area in the low desert of Eastern Riverside County. A warm winter climate makes it a resort destination unlike any other part of Riverside County. Surrounded by the San Jacinto Mountains and Santa Rosa Mountains, the Coachella Valley is a separate and distinct part of Riverside County.

We sincerely thank you for devoting an extraordinary amount of your time to serve on the Redistricting Commission. Our members have listened to each of the Zone I COI sessions and we look forward to seeing how you draw the lines. We hope you will do this as expediently as possible so that candidates will have time to prepare for the 2022 election.

We know this is a challenging process and we are pleased to be engaged. Thank you for considering our comments.

Kindest regards,

Joy Miedecke
President
Susan A. Lloyd
Christel Prokay
Leila S. Stene
Kenda Surenweller
Leslie Lewis
Dorothy S. O'Toole
Sherry A. Palmateer
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Lynne Wilson
Catherine Nichols
Zoie Smith
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Nancy Madison